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Thursday, June 19, 2014

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metro AR PAGES 12 & 13

Amazon opens Fire in phone fight

New smartphone has audio and object recognition, allowing you to buy that song or that book when you first encounter it PAGE 17

Laughter, love and survival behind bars

Orange is the New Black stars Taylor Schilling and Uzo Aduba talk Season 2; Use Metro AR to see a video PAGE 24

You can tune out the tunes at NXNE, if you so desire

There's plenty more to do besides music: visual art, stand-up, panels ... PAGE 21

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

THE DAY SPAIN LOST ITS KINGS

Left: Javi Martinez reacts after Spain went down in flames against Chile 2-0 Wednesday, knocking the reigning champions out of the World Cup. Story, page 42. Right: Spain's former king Juan Carlos and his son Crown Prince Felipe after the abdication ceremony in Madrid, ending a 39-year rule that guided Spain out of dictatorship but was later battered by scandal. LEFT: CHRISTOPHE SIMON/GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT: GERARD JULIEN/GETTY IMAGES

Love exiles land in T.O.

'It's Canada or nothing else.' Exhibition tells story of gay couples who had nowhere else to go

They are "love exiles" from around the world, and they have come here purely for love.

That's the theme of Landed: Together in Canada, a new multimedia installation at The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre. The installation tells the stories of couples who decided to make Canada their home — though neither partner was Canadian — because there was nowhere else where they could legally settle as couples.

"When I was dropping off my partner at the airport, I wasn't sure if we were going to see each other again. It's like watching somebody drown."

That's how one Indonesian-American gay couple described their separation before they reunited in Canada.

They found refuge in a country that recognizes same-sex marriage and embraces them with a relatively open immigration system.

Landed was inspired by artist Sarah Foy's experience as an American love exile in Canada — though in her case her partner is Canadian.

"Within a couple of weeks of my arrival in Canada, I met another couple who landed here for the same reason. This inspired me to find as many couples as I could," said Foy.

"It made me think that this is a pretty special place. If Canada hadn't worked out, it'd have been the end of many of these relationships. It's Canada or nothing else."

Through an exhaustive search, Foy found more than 50 such bi-national couples.

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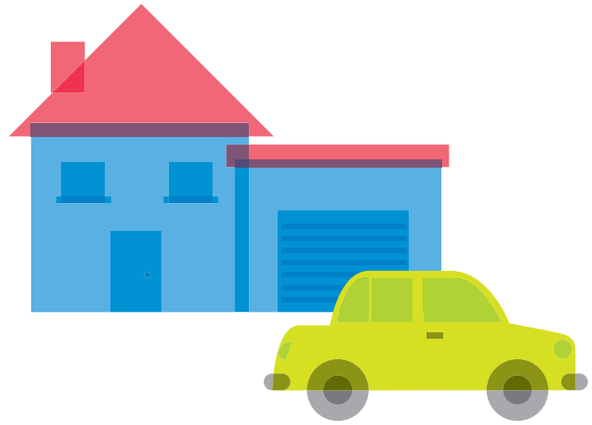

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Backup power insufficient in city highrises, says report

Findings. Generators should be capable of running essential services like elevators, heat for an extended period, says panel investigating hydro's ice-storm response

Highrise apartments and condominiums need far bigger backup power systems in case of extended power outages, says the chair of the panel that studied Toronto Hydro's response to the ice storm last December.

In some ways the city simply lucked out that no elderly or disabled people died in highrises because of the blackout, David McFadden said in presenting the report.

"Think of how many senior citizens, people who are ill, are up 30 storeys in a building," he told a news conference. "If they had a health emergency and the elevators aren't working, who gets there? We need as a society to think about this."

The panel gave Toronto Hydro a passing grade for its performance during the ice storm, which hit the city just before Christmas, leaving one million residents in the dark.

But it said there's room for improvement in many areas, including getting information out to worried customers.

The report notes practically none of Toronto's highrise apartments and condominiums have backup generators capable of running essential services such as elevators, heat and phones for an extended period.

"There's a potential for catastrophe if we're not careful," McFadden said.

That's why the panel recommends the province amend the Ontario Building Code to require that all highrise residential buildings — old and new — install backup generators or power supplies that can enable people trapped for extended periods to cook, have lights, keep warm and have contact with the outside world.

The code currently requires only enough power for safe evacuation in the event of a fire and to "assist in firefighting operations."

Panel member Sean Conway — who lives in a 51-storey building near Yonge and Bloor — said better emergency power in highrises is essential because "we're growing older."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"(Toronto Hydro's) performance was within industry norms. There was nothing here that the company dropped the ball on."

Miki Deric, expert consultant

$11 minimum wage? Try $14, say advocates

A large community delegation of faith leaders, health professionals, teachers, students, and labour and community representatives deliver a giant 40-foot petition to the Ministry of Labour and Premier Kathleen Wynne on Wednesday. The petition had thousands of signatures from across Ontario calling for a $14 minimum wage. The minimum wage recently increased to $11, but some activists suggest that still leaves workers 16 per cent below the poverty line. The new minister of labour is expected to be announced by Wynne before July 2, when the legislature will be recalled.

LORRAINE FERNS/FOR METRO

Wynne says she will present 'identical' budget in July

Next month's Ontario budget will be "identical" to the one presented May 1 that was rejected by the opposition parties, triggering the June 12 election, Premier Kathleen Wynne said Wednesday.

"There may be some technical things that we have to change, and that will be laid out in the speech, but in terms of policies and the investments, it will be the identical budget," Wynne said.

After winning her own mandate, and leading the Liberals to power for another four years with a majority, Wynne is anxious to get the legislature back in session July 2, which means quickly preparing a throne speech and selecting a cabinet. She doesn't regret not waiting until after Labour Day to bring the house back.

"I could worry about cabinet for two months or I can worry about it for three days and get it done," Wynne said. "I am very eager to get started; our team is eager to get the budget reintroduced in the legislature and work to implement the plan."

Wynne wouldn't confirm that Charles Sousa would stay in the finance portfolio, but laughed when asked if someone else would have time to get up to speed on the budget that he drafted.

"Stay tuned," she said.

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Policies. Same-sex couples at 'financial disadvantage': Report

Some legislation and workplace policies continue to put unmarried same-sex couples at a disadvantage when it comes to their financial security, warns a new BMO Wealth Institute report.

Timed for the WorldPride festival, which kicks off in Toronto on Friday, the study finds that the number of same-sex couples in Canada has doubled over the last decade, with nearly half living in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver.

Although the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) community has made great strides toward acceptance and equality over that time, differences still remain that have consequences for their financial footing, says the report released Wednesday.

"It's taken couples in the LGBTQ community many years to achieve the rights and opportunities they now have in Canada," said Chris Buttigieg, senior manager, wealth planning strategy, BMO Financial Group.

"But even today, full equality has not yet been realized in Canada," he said on a conference call.

The report cited several areas LGBTQ couples must consider in their financial planning, from employment benefits to wills and insurance.

By the numbers

In 2011, there were about 65,000 same-sex couples in Canada, which accounted for almost one per cent of all couples and was double the number of same-sex couples reported 10 years earlier, the BMO report says.

"Not all private-sector companies have the workplace benefits policies in place to ensure same-sex couples are treated equitably," said Buttigieg.

The study says that while many large companies have instituted policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, only 62 per cent of Fortune 500 companies provide domestic partner health insurance benefits to their employees.

And when it comes to estate planning, the seamless equality for same-sex couples found in tax rules is not reflected in all provincial legislation, it says. For instance, several provinces do not provide for same-sex partners, or for common-law partners in general, when a person dies without a will. Instead, assets go to the closest blood relative.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The LGBTQ community has made great strides toward equality but differences still remain that have consequences for their financial footing, says a report released Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A one-two punch for 'a smart, caring city'

More than $900K for 48 programs. Vital Toronto rewards community programs with grants

AUSTEN GILLILAND
toronto@metronews.ca

You couldn't have found a more typically Toronto crowd if you'd squeezed onto a rush-hour subway train — people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds, some in business suits rubbing elbows with others carrying bike helmets — except that the folks in this crowd were all smiling and laughing.

They weren't on the TTC; they were gathered at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio for the seventh annual Vital Toronto awards, organized by the Toronto Community Foundation and hosted by the CBC's Matt Galloway.

The philanthropists, community leaders and volunteers had good reason to be excited. The Vital Toronto event recognizes some of the city's most inspiring community programs and projects with grants — 48 programs this year, to the tune of more than $900,000 — to help the organizations expand their programs and inspire more Torontonians.

Cycle of good

"Our focus is really on creating community champions, kids who do well in life, and then give back."

Miranda Kamal, of Mentoring Junior Kids Organization

The awards, funded by the TCF's Vital Toronto community endowment fund, support a variety of community programming at several levels, funding fledgling organizations as well as more established programs.

"This funding will help us help even more kids," said Miranda Kamal, executive director of Mentoring Junior Kids Organization (MJKO), who accepted a Vital Youth/Playing for Keeps grant. The organization has helped more than 4,000 Toronto youth through its Blueprint Program, which uses non-contact boxing as a way to encourage kids to make positive choices. In fact, boxing is just the way in — less than one per cent of the kids actually want to pursue the sport seriously.

"Our focus is really on creating community champions," Kamal said, "kids who do well in life, and then give back."

Kamal sees the Vital Toronto grant as an important vote of confidence in her organization. "It means we're going to be able to run even better programs," she said. "We have a lot of passion for what we're doing, and this will enable us to continue to do it."

Kate German was on hand to accept a Vital Ideas award for School Grown, a Food Share Toronto program that runs market gardens at two Scarborough high schools, offering students valuable work experience.

"This grant will enable us to document, evaluate and share our experiences," she said, "so that we can build capacity at other schools. I'd love to see a garden in every schoolyard."

The spirit of sharing and working together to help Toronto grow was a common theme. Rahul Bhardwaj, the CEO of the Toronto Community Foundation, celebrated the way that Torontonians work together to build community. "Collaboration is the way to build a smart and caring city," he said.

Miranda Kamal, executive director of Mentoring Junior Kids Organization, with a photo of one of her boxing students in this file photo from last fall.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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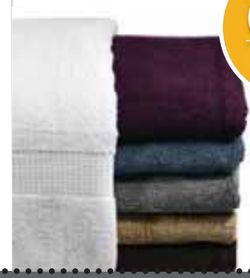

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Protection. Ontario issues human rights policy for mentally ill

The Ontario Human Rights Commission released a set of guidelines Wednesday on how to best handle human rights issues related to the mentally ill, saying it hoped other provinces would follow suit.

The new policy — which comes at a time when statistics suggest one in five Canadians experience a mental health illness in any given year — offers those dealing with mental illness, as well as their employers, landlords and other service providers "user-friendly" advice on how to best identify and combat rights violations.

"Until very recently many people have been fearful of coming out of the veritable closet where they found themselves because of fear, because of stigma, because of discrimination and barriers," said chief commissioner Barbara Hall.

"This policy is saying that people with mental health issues are protected under the human rights code. They have rights. Employers, service providers, landlords all have responsibilities and we need to understand those better and then we need to take action to remove the barriers."

The 109-page policy explains the rights afforded to those dealing with mental health issues, offers examples of human rights violations on the basis of mental illness or addiction, and suggests practical advice on how to deal with such situations.

"People want to comply with the law," Hall said. "But we don't often know what to do, we don't know what the rights are, we don't know what the responsibilities are."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barbara Hall, chief commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, at her office in Toronto. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wanted for 17 robberies

$50,000 reward for capture of Vaulter Bandit

A bankers' group has increased a reward to help catch a robber dubbed the Vaulter Bandit, who is wanted for 17 robberies at banks in numerous Canadian cities.

The Canadian Bankers Association hiked its reward to $50,000 from $20,000 on Wednesday.

Toronto police Det. Sgt. Mike Earl says the suspect is very athletic for someone believed to be in his late 30s or early 40s, jumping over bank counters like a hurdler.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cancer survivor on what it takes to win the battle

The Survivor's Lap. Susan Howe-Walsh vowed she would walk it soon after her diagnosis

Susan Howe-Walsh, right end of banner, participating in the Survivor's Lap last year. SHARAD REDDY/FOR METRO

Two days after Susan Howe-Walsh was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 51, she participated in her first Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life.

"The opening ceremonies were quite a poignant moment for me," she told Metro, "and I vowed then that I would be walking the first lap — the Survivor's Lap — in the 2013 Relay for Life!"

Howe-Walsh did just that. After seven months of treatment for triple negative breast cancer, "chemotherapy, a lumpectomy and 33 rounds of radiation," she victoriously walked her first Survivor's Lap.

Like so many other cancer survivors, the road to recovery for Howe-Walsh was fraught with setbacks, "like an allergy to one of the chemo drugs" that prolonged the treatment, and she relied heavily on the never-ending support of family and friends to get through the ordeal.

"I participated in clinical studies, one being a trial of an innovative imaging technique (QUS) which benefited me and will benefit breast cancer patients in the future," she said. "It helped me to give back for all they did for me."

Howe-Walsh signed up for her first relay on a whim in response to a challenge, "now I participate for the inspiration and the empowerment the event brings to me."

She remains a huge supporter of the Relay for Life and will walk the Survivor's Lap again this year on June 20. She is also eager to share her story because it just might help somebody else facing the same challenges.

"Knowledge is power — ask questions, be observant of changes to your body — I had what I thought was a bruise on my breast that when I realized it had been there for longer than it should be if it was a bruise, got investigated — early diagnosis is what made my prognosis so good," she said.

"I'm looking forward to participating in the Relay for Life and walking the first lap — the Survivor's Lap — for many years to come because it means I'm winning the battle!" TARIN ELBERT/METRO

Lace up!

- There are two Relay For Life events remaining in Toronto, June 20 at Esther Shiner Stadium and in the Beaches at Neil McNeil High School.
- Go to relayforlife.ca for more info.
- Money raised through Relay For Life helps fund cancer research, and supports services that help local cancer patients, such as Wheels of Hope, which has helped more than 1,600 patients get to cancer treatment last year.

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A dog's world. Mississauga may ban keeping pets outdoors in extreme temps

Mississauga city council is considering banning residents from keeping dogs and other pets outside in extreme temperatures.

"I think we have to look at that," said Mayor Hazel McCallion, who questioned why dogs should be treated with any less consideration than children when it comes to safety during extreme weather.

McCallion, who owns a shepherd named Missy, said it's imperative to protect animals from harsh conditions.

Council plans to form a committee to determine what rules could be enforced to protect pets and will then decide on a new bylaw.

Shane McNeil, who founded a group called Society Advocating for Dogs, attended Wednesday's council meeting and was upset that a staff report before council did not address his request for specific rules about when dogs and other pets would have to be brought indoors.

Hazel McCallion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We're talking about a temperature restriction to save a dog's life."

Shane McNeil, founder of Society Advocating for Dogs, on a request for rules about when a pet must be brought indoors

He said that some U.S. jurisdictions do not allow dogs outside in temperatures hotter than 30 C or colder than -1 C.

"I'm disappointed that the report takes no position on that."

But councillors said that once a committee is formed it will consider all the recommendations and determine potential enforcement methods and penalties.

Mississauga Humane Society president Lily Chan told council that Mississauga has a chance to take the lead on this issue, as no other city in Canada has created such a bylaw.

McNeil said he's happy to hear that council wants to go further than the staff report.

"I'm glad councillors agree that this is a commonsense issue. We're talking about a temperature restriction to save a dog's life."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Short fences make for 'hopping mad' neighbours

Oops! Finch parking lot fence installed in 2010 too low; taller fence will cost TTC $100,000

Louise Rosenbloom at a fence near her backyard on Wednesday. Area homeowners are complaining of teens jumping a fence to hang out near the commuter parking lot at Finch subway. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In 2010, the TTC spent about $200,000 to replace around 300 metres of worn-out, 31-year-old fencing around the far end of the west parking lot at Finch station.

Now, it plans to tear down that relatively new fence and spend $100,000 to put up a taller one, on the insistence of neighbours on Fairchild and Blake avenues.

Coun. John Filion, who represents the area, said the Toronto Transit Commission had overlooked an agreement with residents, which stated that the original 3.1-metre concrete block fence be maintained.

Instead, the transit system put up a wooden fence just 1.8 metres high, the standard used at Green P lots run by the Toronto Parking Authority, which also runs the Finch commuter lot, located in the hydro corridor.

Quoted

"They go in there and they drink beer and smoke pot and have themselves a great time."

Louise Rosenbloom, area resident On teenagers near the Finch parking lot

The neighbours were "hopping mad," Filion said.

Their objection led to a scramble to find the agreement — which Filion says took months — and insist the TTC live up to it.

While city staff and the parking authority were happy with the shorter fence, the North York community council on Tuesday sided with residents and granted an exemption to allow the higher fence, albeit in wood and not the concrete that residents wanted.

The issue is that the lot turns into a vast, empty expanse of asphalt after dark, becoming a hangout for youth who show up in their cars to perform spins, squeal their tires and sometimes engage in "drag racing."

Earlier this year, two groups of young men were hooting and hollering as they pushed two cars to see who could reach the "finish line" first, said Fairchild Avenue resident Louise Rosenbloom.

"There's a group of teenagers that have pulled a bench, and there might even be a couch, over to the east of my house," she said.

"And they go in there and they drink beer and smoke pot and have themselves a great time."

Signs posted on lamp posts in the lot warn it's under surveillance and provide a number to call, but it's a wrong number, Rosenbloom said.

Filion said his priority was resolving the fence issue, which had residents threatening to take the TTC to court. The transit system should have contacted residents before razing the original concrete fence, said TTC spokesperson Brad Ross.

"We took down that fence without any public consultation. We didn't tell the neighbours what we were doing. And we should have done that," Ross said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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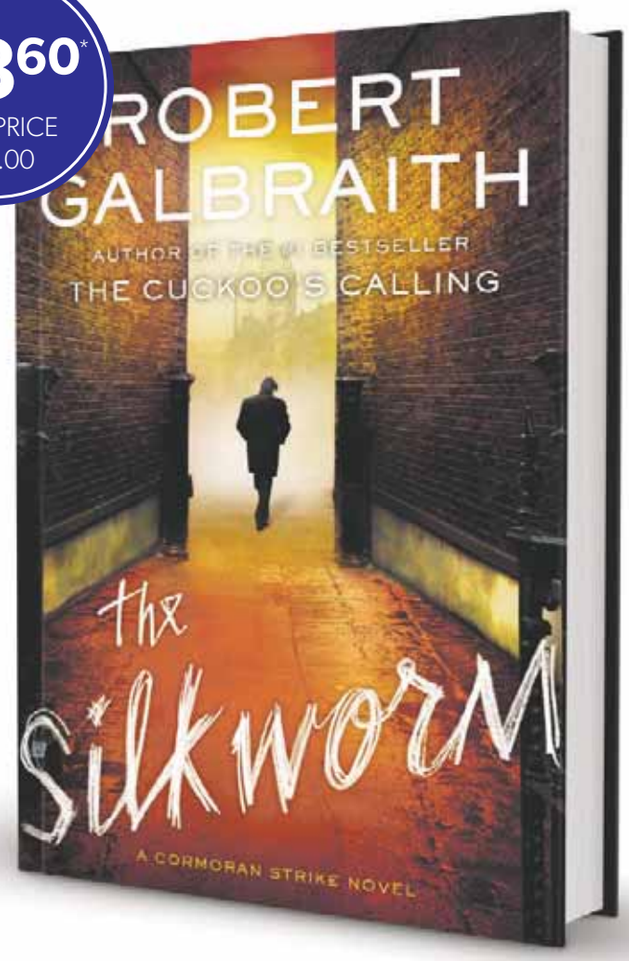

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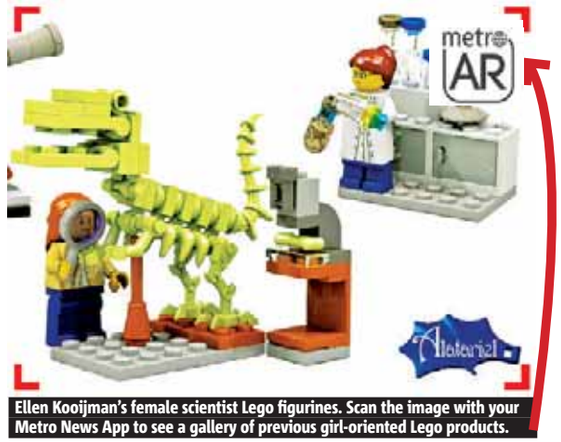
Lego figurines of female scientists

Lego of my aspirations!

Designs aim to change outdated gender stereotypes



Ellen Kooijman's female scientist Lego figurines. Scan the image with your Metro News App to see a gallery of previous girl-oriented Lego products.

Lego is traditionally the building blocks for many a boy's happy childhood. But Ellen Kooijman, a Dutch geosciences researcher based in Sweden, is hoping to change outdated stereotypes with mini-figurine designs that include a female astronomer, a paleontologist and a chemist.

Kooijman put forward her box set called Research Institute to the Lego Ideas website where fans can pitch prospective toy sets.

But before a proposal's life in plastic becomes a reality, it must first reach Lego's required 10,000-vote threshold and pass muster before a review board before finally going into production.

The scientist spoke to Metro about her love of Lego and breaking down gender stereotypes.

When and why did you first get into Lego?

It was my favourite toy as a child, so I've built with Lego bricks almost my whole life, except for a period during my teenage years which adult fans of Lego call the "dark ages."

Are you not a bit old for Lego?

I see it as a great medium to express my creativity in three dimensions. You can basically build anything on any scale and the best thing is you can take it apart again and build something new.

Were past Lego sets sexist?

As a female scientist, I had noticed two things about the available Lego sets: a skewed male-female mini-figure ratio and a rather stereotypical representation of the available female figures. It seemed logical that I would suggest a small set of female mini-figures in interesting professions to make our Lego city communities more diverse.

In what ways are your figurines an improvement on the toys of old?

I think Lego as a toy has always been gender-neutral in principle you can use them to build whatever you come up with.

Border station squalor

Children's faces pressed against glass. Hundreds of young boys and girls covered with aluminum-foil-like blankets next to chain-link fences. The pungent odour that comes with keeping dirty travellers in close quarters.

These were the sights from Wednesday tours of crowded Border Patrol stations in Texas and Arizona, where thousands of immigrants are being held before they are transferred to other shelters around the country.

It was the first time the media was given access.Pres-Barack Obama called it an "urgent humanitarian situation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A Washington Redskins helmet lies on the field Wednesday in Ashburn, Va.

NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redskins trademark revoked

The U.S. Patent Office ruled Wednesday that the Washington Redskins nickname is "disparaging of Native Americans" and that the team's federal trademarks for the name must be cancelled.

The 2-1 ruling comes after a campaign to change the name gained momentum over the past year. The team doesn't immediately lose trademark protection and is allowed to retain it during a likely appeal.

Redskins owner Dan Snyder has refused to change the team's name, citing tradition, but there has been growing pressure, including statements in recent months from U.S. President Barack Obama, lawmakers and civil rights groups.

The decision means that the team can continue to use the Redskins name, but it would lose a significant portion of its ability to protect the financial interests connected to its use. If others printed the name on sweatshirts, apparel or other team material, it becomes more difficult to go after groups who use it without permission.

The case involves six registered trademarks that involve the use of the word Redskins, but it does not apply to the team's logo.

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Investigators assess the damage to homes and property on Wednesday, a day after

A 'miracle' no one hurt,

'Moving forward.'
Mayor of Essa Township says around 100 homes in Angus, Ont., were damaged after twister touched down Tuesday

The mayor of a central Ontario community says it's a miracle no one was hurt when a tornado ripped through the area Tuesday.

Essa Township Mayor Terry Dowdall said about 100 homes were damaged in Angus, which is located in the township.

Dowdall, who joined emergency officials Wednesday morning to give an update on the situation, said he has never seen such destruction in the community.

"Weather seems to be changing, I think, in the province of Ontario," he said. "But I've never seen, and basically no one's seen, devastation quite like this."

The tornado blew out windows, tore up fences and sheared off the tops of some homes when it hit at about 5:30 p.m. but caused no serious injuries.

"I think it was the right time of day," said Essa Fire Chief Cynthia Tustin, calling it an "amazing piece of timing."

"People weren't asleep … people were up and people were able to be aware of what's going on," she said. "It was really a miracle that nobody was hurt at that time of day," added Dowdall.

Provincial police Const. Kelly Daniels said the priority now is to ensure homes are safe enough for people to go back inside and retrieve needed personal items like medication.

She says residents who have been displaced from their homes will be escorted by police and fire officials when they go inside and it will be done home by home.

"Now that we know everyone is safe, our job is to protect their property," said Daniels.

Emergency officials also planned holding a meeting with residents Wednesday afternoon at the Angus recreation centre to discuss what happens next.

"We're moving forward, we have a new day and a new plan," said Dowdall, adding building officials would immediately begin assessing properties.

He said efforts would be made to get people back into their homes as quickly as possible but the top priority would be to ensure the buildings are safe first.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

a tornado touched down in Angus, Ont. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

tornado left officials say

Backyards in Angus, Ont., are shown on Tuesday. Scan the photo with your Metro News app for a gallery of damage caused by Tuesday's twister. GREG FACCHINI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

180 km/h winds

Assessing the severity of the damage

Environment Canada says preliminary estimates suggest the tornado that struck Angus was an EF-2 with estimated wind speeds near 180 km/h. The scale ranges from EF-0 to EF-5.

A survey team was to return to the area Wednesday to further assess the nature and severity of the damage from Angus to Barrie, the weather agency said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa

Police, paramedics injured in training exercise explosion

Two paramedics were seriously injured while two Ottawa police officers sustained minor injuries Wednesday during a training exercise that involved the use of explosives to practise forced-entry techniques, police say.

The officers and paramedics were part of an exercise using explosives to force their way into an abandoned residence when the accident occurred, Ottawa police Chief Charles Bordeleau told a news conference.

A third paramedic also sustained minor injuries, Bordeleau said. All five victims were immediately transported to hospital.

"Their injuries are serious in nature, but I am told they will recover," Bordeleau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The longest yard

Michigan prison drug-smuggling pass gets fumbled

Michigan authorities say a man tried to throw a football loaded with drugs and cellphones into the yard of a state prison.

State Trooper Toby Baker says Sunday's throw in Jackson fell short, with the football landing between two fences, not in the yard where prisoners exercise.

An officer at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility saw the man throw the football, and officers arrested the suspect.

Reports say the ball contained heroin, marijuana, tobacco and three cellphones.

Christen D. Moore, 22, was arraigned Tuesday in Jackson District Court on contraband charges. His probable-cause hearing is June 30.

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Industry agrees to ban microbeads

Great Lakes. Scientists found microplastics used in personal care products in all five lakes in 2012 and 2013

Sherri Mason, right, a New York environmental scientist who led a research team studying microplastics in the Great Lakes, examines a trawling device used to collect plastic microbeads from the water with student Shayne McKay on Lake Ontario, in this July 2013 photo. Inset: A sample of microbeads collected in eastern Lake Erie is shown on the face of a penny. COURTESY SUNY-FREDONIA & 5GYRES.ORG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Environmentalists in Illinois expected a battle royal over their call for a statewide ban on microbeads — tiny bits of plastic used in personal care products such as facial scrubs and toothpaste that are flowing by the billions into the Great Lakes and other waterways. Discovered only recently, scientists say they're showing up inside fish that are caught for human consumption.

But instead of resisting, leading companies quickly collaborated on a ban that was enacted by the state legislature this spring. And with similar measures now pending in three other large U.S. states, the extinction of microbeads is taking shape as one of the unlikeliest events in the politics of nature: a low-stress compromise by interest groups that are often at each other's throats.

Disagreements over details are delaying similar bills in California and New York, while a measure in Ohio has gained little traction. Still, all sides expect deals, and that given those states' outsized place in the market, microbeads will disappear from U.S. products as the industry swallows the cost.

Barely visible without a microscope, the bits flow through wastewater treatment plant screens and into the lakes. Sherri Mason, an environmental scientist with State University of New York-Fredonia who was a leader of the research team, said the beads are showing up the stomachs of Great Lakes perch and in fish-eating birds like the double-crested cormorant. Because treated wastewater flows into so many waterways, Mason said, "Every river and every inland lake you look at is going to have some plastic in it."

The industry has yet to endorse a California bill that wouldn't make an exception for biodegradable microbeads, which the industry says are on the drawing board. A ban has unanimously passed New York's State Assembly, but is awaiting Senate action while the industry pushes for a slower timetable. The measure would prohibit most cosmetics with microbeads by 2016. The Illinois phase-out is more gradual, running from 2017 to the end of 2019.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microbeads

Companies working on substitutes

The plastic exfoliants apparently came into widespread use in the 1990s, preferred because they are smoother to the skin than natural ingredients. Laurent Gilbert, director of advanced research at L'Oreal, said they have "no proven environmental toxicity."

Still, Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, Colgate, Unilever and L'Oreal are among the companies announcing plans to replace microbeads with natural substances such as ground-up fruit pits, oatmeal and sea salt.

The companies say that it can take years to develop new mixtures and get them to market.

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Regina. Man offers cash to strangers if they can quit smoking for a year

Bruce Robinson has spent the last 20 years approaching random strangers in Regina and offering them $1,000 to quit smoking.

However, despite challenging about 1,000 people over the past two decades, only six people have completed Robinson's quit-smoking challenge.

That means he's only given away $6,000, despite offering about $1 million.

When Joel Pinel first heard of the challenge, he was skeptical. But after meeting Robinson in person, Pinel changed his mind.

Now, the two men are working together to try and create a documentary dedicated to smoking prevention.

The documentary, titled 1,000 Excuses to Quit, will follow Robinson and the people to whom he offers $1,000 to give up smoking for a year. It will include interviews with people who couldn't complete the challenge, as well as success stories.

Kickstarter campaign

$45,000

Joel Pinel and Bruce Robinson have started an online Kickstarter campaign to try and raise $45,000 for production costs for their documentary. So far, a week into the 30-day campaign, they've raised just under $2,000.

Robinson has been thinking of doing a documentary for years, he said, but when a close friend died of a smoking-related stroke in November, he felt that he had to take action.

Both men say they're motivated by how smoking-related health problems have affected their friends and family. Pinel said it took a heart attack to convince his father to quit. Robinson's father was 57 when he died of a heart attack. It was that tragedy that inspired Robinson's crusade against cigarettes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elephant takes baby steps

A newborn baby elephant (name and gender so far unknown), the third offspring of mother Indi, explores the compound at the zoo in Zurichfor the first time Wednesday.

STEFFEN SCHMIDT/KEYSTONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China. 127 students hired others to take college entrance test for them

At least 127 test-takers in a Chinese province hired other people to take the country's all-important college entrance exam on their behalf, the provincial college admission office said.

Education authorities have imposed increasingly strict rules to guard against cheating during the exam, which is called the "gaokao" and has the reputation of being China's level playing field for academic advancement. Cheating is not unheard of, especially using electronic gadgets, but hiring of surrogate test-takers has so far been rare.

Almost all Chinese high school graduates must take the exam, and their scores are the key criterion for what tier of university they can enter.

Competition in Henan province is especially intense because it has a larger student population and fewer allocated slots in Chinese universities as compared with many other provinces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California sugary drinks

Bill requiring warning labels fails

A bill that would have made California the first state in the U.S. to require warning labels on sugary drinks was effectively killed Tuesday after failing to get the needed 10 votes to pass.

Democratic lawmakers doubted whether a label would change consumer behaviour. Certain sodas, energy drinks and fruit drinks would have included a label reading, "Drinking beverages with added sugar(s) contributes to obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay."

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Will Mercier examines the flooding at his home in Claresholm, Alta., on Wednesday. People moved out of about 40 homes in Claresholm after rain continued to fall and sewers backed up. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Less flooding, more optimism in Alberta

Still treading water. Most affected residents get to stay home after voluntary evacuation issued in one town

Improved rain and river forecasts Wednesday were lifting soggy spirits in southern Alberta where heavy rainfall and swollen rivers had residents worried about evacuations and damage to their homes.

"The rain is lightening, the infrastructure is catching up to the excessive flows," said Rob Steel, mayor of Claresholm, where a voluntary evacuation centre had already been set up.

"If it stays like this, it'll just get better and better as each hour goes by."

Lethbridge Mayor Chris Spearman said concerns were eased when lighter rainfall lowered peak forecasts for the Oldman River, which runs through his city.

"Things are looking much better," he said. "To our relief, the rainfall upstream wasn't as severe as predicted overnight so the provincial river flow forecast has improved significantly."

The same forecast was welcome news in Medicine Hat, where Alberta Environment was predicting peak flows on the South Saskatchewan River at 2,400 cubic metres per second — less than half the original figure.

But things could change.

"We're still very concerned because there's a heavy rainfall warning in effect and (by) what we see on the weather radar," Steel said, "this is still a very dynamic situation."

Even with the threat subsiding, the mess left behind is significant.

Claresholm, a town of 3,800 about 130 kilometres south of Calgary, has about 40 damaged homes — some surrounded by water and some swamped, Steel said.

About 250 homes in Lethbridge were affected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Water damage

40

Claresholm, a town of 3,800 about 130 kilometres south of Calgary, has about 40 damaged homes — some surrounded by water and some swamped, Steel said.

Teen who travelled in plane's wheel well speaks publicly: He just wanted to find mom

A Somali-born teenager who survived a flight to Hawaii as a stowaway in the plane's wheel well said he hopped on the closest flight that was going west in an effort to find his birth mom, and can't believe he survived the journey.

Yahya Abdi, 15, spoke over Google Chat to KPIX-5 in his first public comments since his improbable survival during the 5-1/2-hour flight from San Jose to Maui in April. The interview was reported on Tuesday night.

Abdi, a Somali immigrant, ran away from his California home and hopped a fence at Mineta San Jose International Airport. He crouched down in the wheel well of the Hawaiian Airlines flight and remembers covering his ears as the plane took off, he said.

"It was above the clouds. I could see through the little holes," Abdi said.

Abdi survived the flight at 35,000 feet despite low oxygen and freezing temperatures.

The teen said he made the decision to get on board the plane because he didn't want to live with his stepmom and wanted to find his mother, whom he hasn't seen since he was seven years old. She lives in Africa.

Abdi spoke to her on the phone on Tuesday.

"I would tell her to live with me in America," he said.

His mom, Ubah Mohammed Abdule, confirmed the conversation to The Associated Press.

"He says, 'Mom, you are not dead for sure?"' Abdule told the AP. "'I thought you died in a boat trip. This is incredible news!' Then he became silent for a moment. Then he cried."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where he is now

Abdi is staying at a temporary foster home. He will be a junior in high school this fall and plans to live with his aunt in the Minneapolis area, KPIX-5 reported.

- "I've been going to the movie theatre and playing video games," he said.
- Earlier this year, police said they were investigating possible criminal charges against the boy.

Stuck in the air

"It was above the clouds. I could see through the little holes." Yahya Abdi, 15

World Cup violence

Stray bullet wounds Brazilian boy, 7

A stray bullet grazed the neck of a seven-year-old boy near a site where thousands had gathered to watch a large-screen broadcast of Brazil playing Mexico in the World Cup host city of Fortaleza, police said Wednesday.

Police said they are investigating the cause of Tuesday's shooting. No one else was hurt and the hospital where the boy was being treated says his wound was not life-threatening.

Meanwhile fist fights broke out between Australian, Dutch and Brazilian fans that had gathered near bars and restaurants of Porto Alegre Tuesday, a day before The Netherlands and Australia were to meet in the Estadio Beira-Rio there.

Also on Tuesday in downtown Sao Paulo, police used pepper spray on fans trying to force their way into a fan fest locale to watch the Brazil-Mexico game. Police said the area had been sealed off because it had already reached its capacity of 25,000 spectators.

Some fans hurled bottles and metal crowd-control barriers at police, injuring 15 people, none seriously.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conditional release

Moncton man pleads guilty after threatening cops

A man pleaded guilty Wednesday to uttering a threat to cause death to peace officers and was released from jail on conditions, including one that prohibits him from having any contact with Justin Bourque, charged with first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of three RCMP officers in Moncton.

Jasper John Stam, 24, was charged June 9 for an incident that occurred between May 10 and 18.

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Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos introduces the new Amazon Fire phone on Wednesday in Seattle. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will Amazon blaze a new path with the Fire phone?

The everything store.
CEO Jeff Bezos unveils the phone in Seattle

Amazon has introduced a new smartphone with audio and object recognition technology that seeks to make it easier for consumers to locate and purchase products and services from America's largest e-commerce company.

Specs and features:
• The phone is smaller than leading Android phones, but larger than Apple's iPhone. CEO Jeff Bezos calls the screen, measuring 4.7 inches diagonally, ideal for one-handed use.

• Firefly is the centrepiece of the new phone. Snap a photo of a book, and it'll help you buy it, either as an ebook or a physical copy. Listen to a song playing in the background, and it'll direct you to that tune on Amazon. It can even direct you to facts and data, by showing a Wikipedia entry with information about a painting you snapped. The feature will also let you snap bar codes, phone numbers and more.

Availability:
• The phone will be available July 25 in the U.S. exclusively through AT&T. People can start ordering it Wednesday.

• Prices are comparable to those of other leading high-end phones, but the Fire will have double the storage. It will cost $200 for a base model with 32 gigabytes and $300 for 64 gigabytes. Both require two-year service contracts. Without contracts, they will cost $650 and $750. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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From struggling ...

BlackBerry still seeking its fairy-tale ending ...

BlackBerrys are vanishing in Canada while Google Android ownership grows steadily, but Apple's iPhone is still the most popular smartphone in the country, suggests a new report. THE CANADIAN PRESS

... to success?

... and Amazon could be a knight in shining armour

BlackBerry Ltd. is adding the Amazon Appstore in the next update to its operating system this fall. This will give users of the BlackBerry 10.3 operating system access to thousands more of the most popular Android apps and games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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LEGAL NOTICE

RE: ESTATE OF LINDA MAY JENKINSON, Deceased

Anyone having knowledge of a Will dated later than September 25, 2001, of the late Linda May Jenkinson, of the City of Toronto, Ontario, who died on August 26, 2010, is requested to contact Paul Shenton, Lawyer, of the firm Shenton Sakinofsky LLP, at Tel: 647-725-2530 or email: pshenton@ssllp.ca.

DON'T HATE SOCCER BECAUSE IT'S BEAUTIFUL

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Why do some people hate soccer so much?

As the World Cup unfolds with the impressive array of Google doodles it's known for, people from all over the world are crowding around TVs in colourful clots to cheer on The Beautiful Game. But as Pantene taught us in the '80s, sometimes people hate you because you're beautiful, despite your protestations.

Soccer is wildly popular in my city (Toronto), but my Facebook feed, Internet comment boards and the occasional overheard conversation show me that people who don't like soccer feel deeply about it in a way usually reserved for heated emotional topics: abortion, euthanasia, Nickelback.

Soccer fandom isn't mandatory, but the need of many Canadians to loudly let you know how much they hate the game strikes me as over the top — the equivalent of a player who grabs his shin and plummets to the ground, face contorted, like he stumbled upon a particularly strong pocket of gravity. Check any Internet forum. You'll see people write under soccer stories about how much they hate soccer, often in dismissive, angry terms.

Reading Internet comments is like wilfully exposing yourself to radiation, but here's a real quote I dug up in about 18 seconds of research (lost some hair, but I'll be okay): "Ahhh Soccer the sport of choice for the 3rd world and poor unwashed masses."

Good point, anonymous dude, but I for one think it's nice the Dutch, Australians and Japanese have a game to distract them from the squalor of their failed nations.

Soccer is Canada's most widely played sport, so if you consider "foreign" a detriment then you'd best avoid lasagna, too. Of course, many online soccer detractors are the same people who write under every news story about how multiculturalism is a failure because 100 per cent of the people in their parents' basement are white males. Consider the source.

But it's not just the xenophobic online crazies who give soccer a rough ride. I've seen two World Cup games in public so far, and both times, one guy, apparently dragged there by friends, felt compelled to let others know mid-game that hockey is better, as if one couldn't be a fan of both sports simultaneously. Despite the low scores, soccer doesn't need to be a zero-sum game.

The complaint from hockey fans is almost always the same: Hockey players are tougher than soccer players because soccer players dive a lot and then there's a hilarious joke about a diving team. And, fine, there is too much diving. But it's just cheating that exists in all sports. It doesn't excuse it, but it's universal.

I've heard people ask why it's allowed to continue with the frequency it does — " Aren't they embarrassed?" — but many baseball fans absolve successful players of their steroid use faster than it takes Big Papi to run the bases.

Not in honour-bound hockey? Well, there's the whole cheating thing where players bruise each other's brains and occasionally crack a vertebrae or two by smashing into their heads from behind at 40 km/h. At least in soccer's cheating, nobody gets hurt, quite literally.

So whether you're a soccer fan or not, let's live and let live. It's a game the whole world loves, and that's a beautiful thing. And if anything should tear us asunder, let us unite in our hatred of Nickelback. Olé, Olé, Olé!

ZOOM

iMages of the year

Felicia Pandola, from Providence, R.I., took the nature category by storm, so to speak, with this foreboding beach pic. ALL IMAGES COURTESY IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Photogs win bars of gold for iPhone pics

As all your brilliant selfies have no doubt already shown you, you don't need a fancy camera to take great shots. The iPhone Photography Awards, running annually since 2007, showcase the best images taken with, and edited on, an iPhone, iPod or iPad. This year's winning entries were submitted by 54 photographers from 17 countries. And they weren't just competing for the glory: Each first-place winner, aided by their trusty Apple device, received a gold bar from a private mint. Can your DSLR do that? METRO

Michael O'Neal said he pulled out both his DSLR and iPhone when he encountered this guy at Colter Bay Beach in Wyoming, but the iPhone shots trumped the "real" camera ones. He won for the animal category.

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metro AR

In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on pages 10 and 12-13 in News, page 24 in Scene, page 29 in Life and page 42 in Sports

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2. Hold your device over any image that has the AR logo near it. Make sure you wait for the green scanning bar to read the image!

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MetroTube

metro AR

Here a duck, there a duck, everywhere a duck duck ...

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

When the calendar flipped to 2014, it's nice to think that we all silently vowed to put the "Would you rather fight one horse-sized duck or 100 duck-sized horses" question to rest forever.

Sure, it's amusing and can provide rich territory for mining clever answers. But it really only carried as many uses as a razor blade. Plus, we have new video evidence of what a duck-sized horse stampede would look like. Suddenly, the choice is easy. (OK Go/YouTube)

GETTY IMAGES

metro

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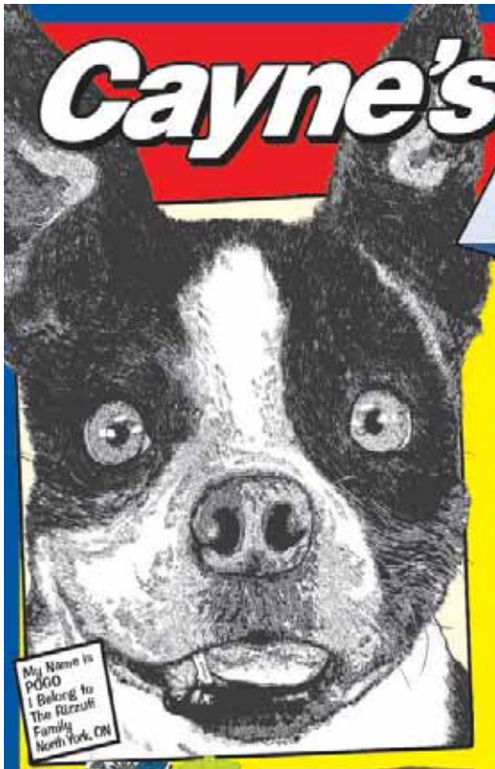

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Music aside, there's a lot to check out during North by Northeast

Art, comedy, panels. Here are a few NXNE offerings above and beyond rock stars and guitars

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Comedian Reggie Watts performs at the Great Hall Friday. CONTRIBUTED

The annual North by Northeast festival takes over every nook and cranny of the city's live music venues this weekend, bringing some of the best new music to Toronto. But the sheer volume of shows can be daunting. That's why NXNE has rounded out the event with a variety of other activities to whet your weekend appetites.

Everything happening at the festival falls under the rubric of "art" but NXNE Art focuses on the visual kind. The NXNE Art Lounge at 363 King St. West features pieces and installations from a host of contributors. Meanwhile Graffiti Alley, where Rick Mercer films his much-loved rants, gets a major extension with more than a dozen graffiti artists contributing new pieces to Queen West's little-seen back alleys over the weekend.

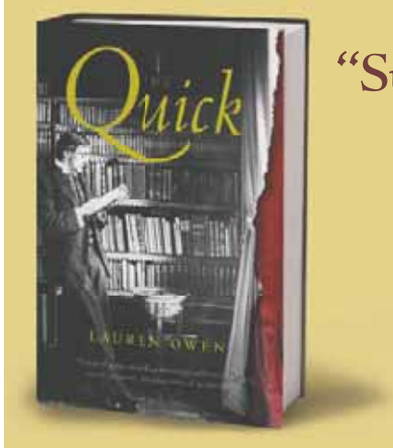
There's a long, shared history between comics and musicians, so stand-up was a natural extension for the fest when it was first added five years ago. This year's headliner Reggie Watts bridges that gap, having recorded solo material before moving into comedy. He performs at the Great Hall tomorrow night. Broken Pencil Magazine takes over the Great Hall tonight for Sex and Death, featuring comedic readings and a deconstruction of the sleazetastic classic Showgirls.

There is also a conference attached to the festival featuring panels, speeches and workshops from a large swath of digital media fields. While many are only of interest to insiders, casual viewers might want to check out Friday's Polaris Music Prize Salon at 1 p.m. where jurors discuss the just announced Polaris Long List.

But seriously, the music...

Four days, four bands for this year's NXNE

- **Thursday.** Future Islands — This Baltimore-based group have far more to offer than the dance moves lead singer Samuel T. Herring showcased on Letterman. 8:30 p.m. at Tattoo
- **Friday.** Swearin' — Philly indie-punks headline a great night of noisy garage rock. Midnight at the Legendary Horseshoe Tavern
- **Saturday.** Rhye – Alt-R&B heroes, based in L.A. but featuring Danish record producer Robin Hannibal and local singer Milosh. 10 p.m. at Sennheiser House at Massey Hall
- **Sunday.** Courtney Barnett — Aussie artist who is equal parts '70s singer-songwriter and '90s alt-rocker. 10 p.m. at the Silver Dollar Room



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Brendan Healy takes Pride in his Buddies

35th anniversary. The world's largest and longest-running queer theatre company celebrates World Pride in its own quirky way

Follow along as Andrew takes an intriguing person out for a night on the town, visiting some of Toronto's newest hot spots and offering tips on how you can create your own date night.

DOBBER DATES
Andrew John Virtue Dobson
dobbernationloves.com
@dobbernation

I was excited about going on a date with Brendan Healy, the artistic director at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, Buddies is the largest and longest-running queer theatre company in the world. This June, Toronto has the esteemed pleasure of hosting World Pride and I thought there would be no one better to chat with about the city's annual rainbow flag festival than Healy.

We met at my favourite restaurant on Church Street, the always-bustling Sabai Sabai located just south of Dundas. Chef Nuit helms the kitchen here, serving authentic tapas plates inspired by her native Thailand. Over lunch we crunched and munched our way through addictive deep-fried squash fritters, crispy fish with sweet tamarind and spicy chicken noodle salad.

In many ways Buddies is Toronto's gay watering hole. The institution that makes the Village gay. Healy explains, "the vision for Buddies has always been to act as more than just a theatre.

"When Buddies first opened over three decades ago, it was a time where few spaces existed in the city for the LGBT community to connect. Today it's an amazing place where different communities regularly interact. One can find fans of Margaret Atwood lingering at the bar after watching her latest play while drag queens arrive for the evening's late-night dance party."

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre artistic director Brendan Healy chows down at Sabai Sabai. ANDREW DOBSON/FOR METRO

From May 31 to June 29, the Buddies Pride program will showcase a broad spectrum of performances that include drag, burlesque, comedy and theatre. This year's World Pride lineup includes thoughtful experiences that explore LGBT issues on a global scale. Buddies has partnered with Pride Toronto to present a not-to-be-missed play reading of Just Me, You and The Silence, a work performed by nine black actors who explore the controversial anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda.

For those looking to have a gay ol' time at Buddies, Healy suggests "Homo night in Canada! It's a real crowd pleaser on the Saturday night of Pride and hosted by the B-Girlz, Toronto's famous queer comedy drag trio. After the show we open up a full facility dance party worth sticking around for."

Where to go before, after

Heading to Buddies for a show and want to make it a date night? Check out Healy's favourite spots to grab a drink or a bite just a stone's throw from the theatre.

Pre: Have dinner at Fabarnak. The food here is fantastic and you'll be supporting the 519 Church Street Community Centre at the same time, which feels great.

Post: Pop by Boutique Bar for a vodka martini and sit under the stars while people watching from the petite patio.

Get your Pride on

World Pride runs June 20-29. Find more details at pridetoronto.com and buddiesinbadtimes.com

*Offer valid Friday, June 20, 2014 from 6pm - midnight. Not valid in Quebec and British Columbia. While supplies last. No rain checks. Selection may vary by store. Valid in-store only. Not valid on previous purchases. See store for details. **Offer valid in-store only.

Courtney Maum COLIN LANE

Sizzling summer book puts the heat on marriage after mistress

Through a keyhole darkly. Novel about cheater who tries to woo back wife is not your typical beach read

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News

It all started with a note taped on the outside of a French art gallery. The note read (in French), "Mr. Architect, you were wearing an elegant hat and you wanted to buy the blue bear. Please contact me." Courtney Maum was living in Paris at the time and experiencing years of writer's block, but that one note sparked the idea for her new extremely buzz-y novel, I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You.

The protagonist is a British artist named Richard who paints rooms as they appear through a keyhole, but he is more obsessed with pining over his ex-mistress than his art — or his wife. He starts regretting his affair about the same time his wife is done with him. "In my family history, everyone cheated on everyone else and got divorced. I found myself wondering, 'Did anyone try to work it out?'" Maum tells us.

Because the book addresses infidelity, early reviewers and readers are dissecting it, trying to pull marital lessons from these fictional characters. But that doesn't intimidate Maum. "I'm pretty flattered by that," she says. "I remember thinking that people who are married or think about marriage a lot would like this book ... It's a bumpy road. Marriage is freaking awkward. You're not psyched after eight years to get into bed with the same person," she says.

Richard has many other flaws — besides the whole having a mistress part — but as a reader, you can't help but root for him. Finding the balance of creating a character who was funny, dark, flawed and likable all at the same time wasn't easy for Maum. "When I wrote the first version back in 2002, I got a lot of rejection letters," she says. "All the editors thought Richard was too unlikeable. At first I just thought they just weren't risk takers, but when I read the manuscript again 10 years later, I realized they were right." Maum says she wrote as if she was sitting there with him and his wife in the kitchen with the baby upstairs. "I wrote with my heart," she says.

Maum grew up in a conservative city in Connecticut, lived in France for five years and now splits her time between Paris, New York City and the Berkshires. Immersing herself in cultures all with vastly different views on marriage seems to have greatly influenced Maum, and her novel is stronger because of it. This book may not be the feel-good read of the summer, but it will stick with you.

A bumpy road

"Marriage is freaking awkward. You're not psyched after eight years to get into bed with the same person."
Author Courtney Maum

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Scan this photo with your Metro News app for a video of Orange is the New Black's Taylor Schilling and Uzo Aduba

Love and survival behind bars

Orange is the New Black stars Taylor Schilling and Uzo Aduba talk about all of Season 2's drama, from Piper's new tough-girl persona to the good intentions behind Crazy Eyes' not-so-good behaviour.

MIRIAM OSBORNE
miriam.osborne@metronews.ca

Orange is the New Black Season 2 opened with a vengeance and never turned back.

In the first season we're introduced to a timid, naive Piper Chapman (Taylor Schilling), an upper middle class, well-educated 32-year-old yuppie finding her way through prison life after being sentenced to 15 months for carrying drug money 10 years prior.

But in Season 2, months into her sentence, Chapman survives on her newfound reputation as a thug after Season 1 ended with her beating a fellow inmate senseless.

This Chapman has a better understanding of what it takes to survive in prison.

"There's a shedding of a skin," Schilling says of her character's hardened shell this season. "There's nothing she can do but adapt."

Chapman is not the only inmate at Litchfield prison who's flexing her muscles. Things get dark in Season 2, and no character gets as dark as Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren, played by Uzo Aduba.

Vee, a sort of den mother and repeat inmate at the prison — and possibly the most terrifying character on television — wants to run the prison, and with that, all the contraband coming in. So she taps into Crazy Eyes' vulnerability, using her need to be respected to do so.

Acting as Vee's enforcer gives Crazy Eyes a sense of purpose. Aduba points out that Vee is one of only two fellow inmates (Chapman being the other) who refers to her by her proper name as Suzanne.

Taylor Schilling, left, and Uzo Aduba catch a flick inmate-style on Orange is the New Black. NETFLIX

"It's like she feels seen by them," Aduba says. "Vee gives her time and dignity by saying that her job on the work crew was respectable, and that gave her something that she hadn't really been given by any other inmates."

Without giving away too many spoilers for those viewers taking their time to get through this season (seriously, watch it, so the rest of us who have can stop talking in hushed tones!), Crazy Eyes takes on her role as Vee's "muscle" with all the vigour you'd expect of someone named Crazy Eyes. Though Aduba sees it a bit differently.

"She was protecting what she loves. It's always with good intentions she does these things. That was how I was able to not judge her, because her thing isn't that she's enraged, she's just in love."

Orange is the New Black touches on a lot of things: racism, white privilege, sexuality, transgender issues, religion.

Above all, what comes out is the human instinct to survive at any cost, our basic need to fit in, be respected and, Aduba is quick to add, be loved.

"But Suzanne is definitely starting to learn as the season winds down that love hurts a whole lot. Sometimes you give all of yourself to it and see very little return."

Dramedy

- **Is Orange Is the New Black a comedy?** A drama? Taylor Schilling says, like life, this show is a bit of both. "My experience of life is that these extremes exist, often so close to each other, even if it's the extreme of anger and sadness, or rage and humour. There's just so many extremes that smack up against each other in real life and that's what this show does, I think. This show has so many different colours that meet in the middle, including drama. It's really hard for me to make that call."

Quoted

"Suzanne is definitely starting to learn as the season winds down that love hurts a whole lot."

Uzo Aduba, Orange is the New Black star, on her character

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 28

Left, Pedro Pascal as Oberyn Martell battles The Mountain on Season 4 of Game of Thrones. Right, Pascal plays the villainous Don John in a production of Much Ado About Nothing playing this month in Central Park. LEFT: MACALL B. POLAY/HBO; RIGHT: JOAN MARCUS

There's much Ado about Pedro Pascal

Gone, but not forgotten. His Game of Thrones days may be over, but Pedro Pascal isn't short on work

EVA KIS
Metro World News in New York City

New Yorkers could call Pedro Pascal a hometown boy made good. Best known for his portrayal of the late, great Oberyn Martell on Game of Thrones, the 39-year-old Chilean began his acting career in New York City as an undergrad at NYU. And for an actor in that town, there's no bigger stage than Central Park's Delacorte Theater, where Pascal is currently bringing the drama as the villainous Don John in Much Ado About Nothing, part of Shakespeare in the Park and presented free by The Public Theater.

We caught up with the Brooklyn resident ahead of Monday's official opening to talk being back on stage and the fan response to Oberyn.

How did you get involved with the production?
When I found out that they were going to be doing Much Ado About Nothing in the park, I was hoping to be seen for the role of Don John. I was actually in New York (in March) for the premiere of Game of Thrones, and there was this tiny window to audition for (director) Jack O'Brien.

You're a pretty physical actor. Do you feel better suited to the stage or screen?
My training is in the theatre; I'm much more knowledgeable of film as an audience member. There isn't really anything that can compare to being onstage in front of an audience. It's always hard to answer this question, because a good role in a good play with a good house is an untouchable experience. But there are definitely really interesting things about doing on-camera work that can't be achieved onstage as well. So I wouldn't necessarily be able to choose one over the other. I do love the physical experience of being onstage; it's a pretty demanding one. I love discovering the definitions of a character through physicality.

Oberyn liked to stir up trouble. Do you share that element of mischief?
Possibly! Many of my friends would probably accuse me of being mischievous. I think that for any actor, mischief is sort of a delicious thing to play: What exactly motivates creating chaos? And those are always really fun things to discover.

What will stay with you about the Game of Thrones experience?
This was definitely the best part I'd ever played, and it was the best writing that I'd ever gotten to do on television. The creative experience of getting to sink your teeth into a delicious character, in a project that has found such success, — such a blockbuster television show — and what makes it that I think is ultimately really good storytelling. So to be able to play a really great character within something as large as that is something that I'll creatively never forget. The creative experience of getting to do David (Benioff) and Dan (Weiss)'s writing in that world, and getting into the skin of that character and being in Michele Clapton's costumes, and all the attention, that's really special.

What kinds of reactions have you gotten from fans?
People have been really sweet, very enthusiastic and really supportive. And it's an enormous relief; (Oberyn) was a big undertaking for me, and one that I was pretty nervous about doing because he's such an extravagant character, and I really wasn't sure how it would be received. And it's always nice to be back in New York, where I've been for 20 years, and have a stranger on the subway start smiling and giving me a thumbs up and a "Congratulations!" or "I'm so sorry you're dead."

What's next for you?
I will be going down to Colombia to shoot a series for Netflix called Narcos. It's about the rise and fall of Pablo Escobar, and I'll be playing a living DEA agent, Javier Pena, who was sent to Colombia on a U.S. mission to capture and ultimately kill him.

Quoted

"... It's always nice to be back in New York, where I've been for 20 years, and have a stranger on the subway start smiling and giving me a thumbs up and a 'Congratulations!' or 'I'm so sorry you're dead.'"

Pedro Pascal, actor
on the reception he's gotten since playing Oberyn Martell on Game of Thrones

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New York

Björk to be the subject of MoMA retrospective

Björk will be getting her own multimedia retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York next year. A Wednesday news release says the exhibit will include the Icelandic singer's collaborations with video directors, photographers and fashion designers, a narrative that is both biographical and fictitious written by the singer and Icelandic writer Sjon Sigurdsson, and a newly commissioned music and film experience.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Björk STARPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

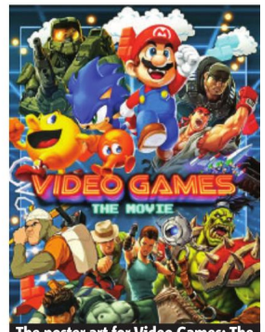
Digital release. Video Games: The Movie due out in July

The Zach Braff-produced look at the rise and rise of video gaming is primed for digital release on July 15, featuring the likes of Sean Astin, Wil Wheaton, Gears of War creator Cliff Bleszinski and Atari founder Nolan Bushnell.

The project — a Kickstarter-funded feature-length documentary — explores video games' history, their future, and the diverse culture that has sprung up around them, and now has a launch trailer in advance of its July release.

Sean Astin of The Lord of the Rings narrates, and the doc's talking heads include Oculus Rift co-founder Palmer Luckey, Hideo Kojima of the Metal Gear Solid series, Wil Wheaton of Star Trek, Hollywood scriptwriter Max Landis, and actor and Q*Bert creator Warren Davis, as well as Mark Cerny, Phil Spencer, and Reggie Fils-Aime of PlayStation, Xbox and Nintendo among many others.

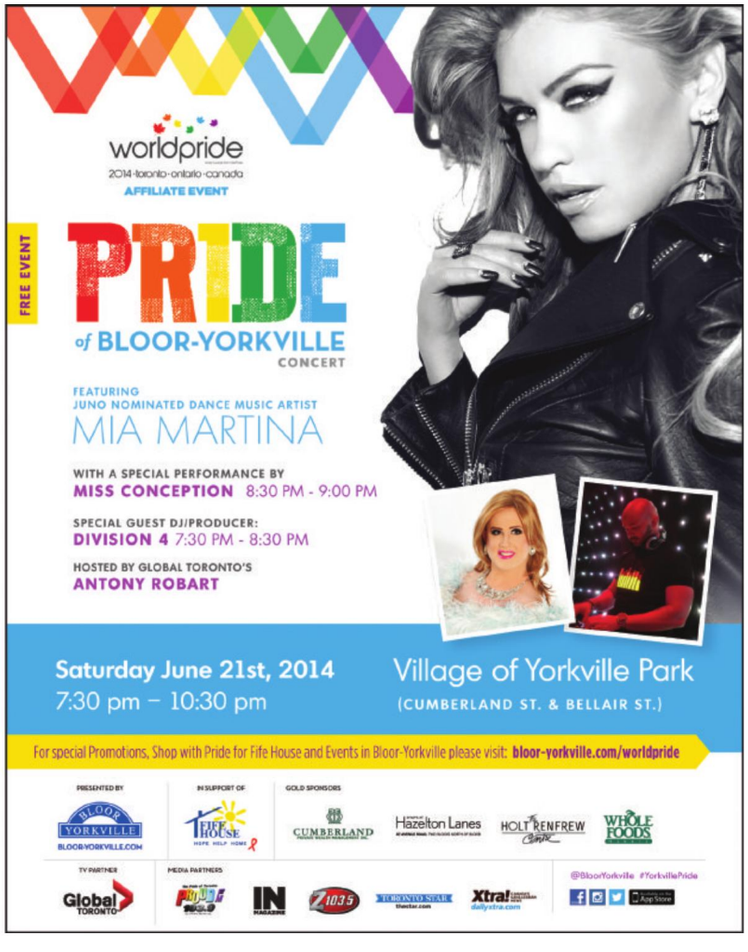
Releasing July 15 as a digital download, Video Games: The Movie is targeting an international audience.



The poster art for Video Games: The Movie is filled with famous characters. CONTRIBUTED

The documentary arrives two years after Indie Games: The Movie, another grassroots project chronicling a selection of engaging personalities behind part of the video game industry.

The scene has become increasingly ripe for Hollywood references, too, with Wreck-It Ralph featuring a worn-out arcade game character, and upcoming comedy Pixels based on gaming tropes. AFP



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Small-screen bloodsuckers could be headed to the stage

True Blood. Vampire show could find an afterlife as a musical

Like the vampires it portrays, True Blood won't seem to die. Even if it means breaking out in song.

After the final scene of the upcoming final season of True Blood, fans may be able to take another fresh bite out of the HBO vampire drama.

In the works — True Blood: The Musical. Seriously.

"This was something that I pitched to HBO and (show creator) Alan Ball," said composer Nathan Barr, speaking on the arrivals line at the True Blood season premiere Tuesday night in Hollywood. Barr has written the instrumental scores for the series' entire seven seasons, the last of which debuts Sunday.

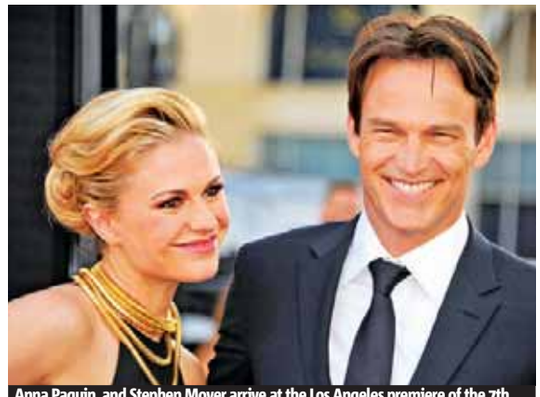
Barr said the musical will revolve around protagonist, telepath and waitress Sookie Stackhouse, portrayed in the series by Anna Paquin. But, Barr added, after seven seasons of twists, turns and characters for Sookie, it's proven a challenge to trim the saga down.

"I think we're really going to try to return to the roots of the show," Barr commented.

True Blood co-star Stephen Moyer, who showed off his vocal chops last year on NBC's highly rated live telecast of The Sound of Music, revealed he helped Barr put together some samples of the True Blood musical presented to HBO and Ball.

Barr said he hopes to present a workshop version about a year from now, but he's not looking beyond that. To say this is Broadway bound is premature.

"There's no guarantees," the composer warned. "But I think the direction we're heading in is really exciting."



Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of the 7th and final season of True Blood on Tuesday. RICHARD SHOTWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think we're really going to try to return to the roots of the show."

Nathan Barr, composer who pitched the idea of the musical to True Blood creator Alan Ball and HBO

YouTube. New streaming service to exclude indie acts

There's good news and bad news for those of us who were looking forward to YouTube's rumoured arrival in the music streaming market. The good news is that the company has confirmed it's getting ready to launch a service that will compete with everyone from Spotify to Beats Music.

But the bad news is that it looks like there's going to be a sizable hole in its music catalogue: independent music.

That's because YouTube's music streaming service, expected to be called YouTube Music Pass, is going to offer a premium, subscription-based tier that will enable users to download songs and videos for offline playback, and YouTube needs to negotiate rights and terms with music labels to make this a reality.

The major labels have all put pen to paper, but indie labels are currently holding out because they feel they are being forced into agreeing to less than agreeable terms. YouTube's head of content and business operations, Robert Kyncl, confirmed the current deadlock to the Financial Times on Tuesday and also said that those labels that don't sign up will see their songs disappear from the main YouTube website "in a matter of days."

The Google-owned video site's stance is that the standoff isn't a big deal as independent record labels account for just 10 per cent of the current music industry in terms of number of artists and groups.

However, that 10 per cent accounts for almost one third (32.6 per cent) of global music sales and streams and includes artists such as Adele and bands like The Arctic Monkeys, Radiohead and of course Jack White in all of his musical incarnations, be it as the White Stripes, the Raconteurs or a solo artist. AFP

Quoted

"We have tried and will continue to try to help YouTube understand just how important independent music is ..."

WIN chief executive Alison Wenham

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Melanie Griffith

Griffith proves a little cover up goes a long way in helping hide her past

If her arm is any indication, Melanie Griffith was apparently serious when she filed for divorce from husband Antonio Banderas after 17 years of marriage.

Griffith has a tattoo of a heart with the name "Antonio" in the middle just below her shoulder, but when the actress showed up at the Taormina Film Festival in Italy she applied heavy make-up to cover up the name, according to Getty Images. The heart surrounding the name was still visible, though, but with a big hole in it.

Mel Gibson giving a cold shoulder to eastern European women

Mel Gibson's bitter legal battle with ex Oksana Grigorieva has apparently soured him on Russian and Ukrainian women in general.

"He doesn't communicate with Ukrainian or Russian girls anymore. If Mel knows you're from there, he kind of just turns around and leaves," actress Natalie Burn, who plays Gibson's wife in Expendables 3, says, according to Star magazine. And that became a problem, because Burn herself was born in the Ukraine. "The producer was very nice, and he advised me not to tell him,"

Mel Gibson

she says, explaining that when Gibson asked if she was Brazilian she replied with, "Yeah, that works."

The Word

More Head-ey games from GOT star

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Lena Headey is a monster. I don't mean that her Game of Thrones character, Cersei Lannister, is a monster, though that's true. I mean that she herself is a stone cold sociopath. She's toying with GOT fans and she doesn't even feel bad about it.

Headey appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live wearing a shirt that says "I'm not sorry," surrounded by a heart. It's a clear reference to her Instagram head games, and she should be sorry, because she's driving people to madness.

Her Instagram has been alarming GOT fans' delicate spoiler radar for some time now. Three months ago she posted a picture of herself fooling around with her co-star Pedro Pascal, who played Oberyn Martell — specifically, a picture in which she's got her thumbs over his eye sockets. Of course, as we've since learned, Oberyn got his head crushed by the Mountain, which makes Headey's skull-mauling photo a spoiler.

Two months ago, Headey posted another seemingly spoileriffic photo: A bunch of rocks arranged into the shape of a heart, captioned "my stone heart." Fans of the books know that a character named Lady Stoneheart makes an important appearance, and they assumed that Headey had once more spoiled one of this season's major plot twists. However, the finale has come and gone, and there's no sign of Lady Stoneheart.

In other words, she's messing with us. And now she's taunting us about it. I think Lena's been a Lannister for too long.

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Source claims Bieber rolled 'burrito-sized joints' in his van in 2012

Apparently Justin Bieber's hard-partying ways that have been getting him into trouble lately aren't a new development, at least not according to photos provided by a fan to Radar Online of Bieber and company turning his van into a weed- and beer-fuelled mobile party on a September 2012 trip to Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif.

"They hot-boxed and drank Heinekens from the fridge Justin keeps in the van," the anonymous source says. "There was no bong or anything, just Justin rolling his own burrito-sized joints. I mean, f—ing huge." Among the revellers was Bieber's then-girlfriend, Selena Gomez. "Everyone smoked, including Selena," the source says. "We smoked at least six joints and were high as a kite by the time we rolled into Knott's."

Katy and Rob sitting in a tree, K.I.S.S.I.N.G

Robert Pattinson and Katy Perry were reportedly "all over each other" after the L.A. premiere of his new film, The Rover, according to Us Weekly.

"When Rob saw Katy his eyes lit up. She looked gorgeous in a lace sequin black mini-dress, and they hugged and kissed," a source says. "At least 10 hotties were hovering around Rob, but his focus was on Katy. He kept kissing her the entire night. When Katy got up from a sofa that was in front of a fireplace, Robert walked over to her. They kissed and hugged again. They were clearly trying to stay under the radar, but they couldn't help showing their feelings."

Katy Perry

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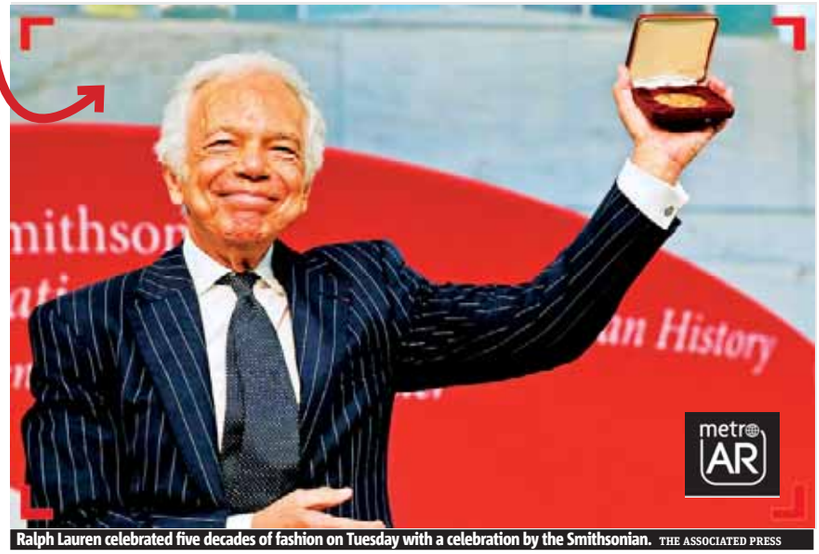
The nice guy with neckties

Ralph Lauren. As the designer is honoured by the Smithsonian for his work, he reflects on his journey to the top



Ralph Lauren celebrated five decades of fashion on Tuesday with a celebration by the Smithsonian. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's a designer who has gone from selling ties from a drawer at the Empire State Building in 1967 to running a corporation with 25,000 employees.

Ralph Lauren was honoured Tuesday by the Smithsonian Institution for his career and to mark the 200th anniversary of the original flag that inspired the writing of the U.S. national anthem.

Lauren was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal "for his embodiment of the American experience" and for "supporting artistry, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for more than five decades."

Lauren sat down with media to discuss his five decades in fashion.

What drew you into the world of fashion originally?
Luck. No, you know I never went to fashion school. I somehow was a young guy, grew up in the Bronx and ... I don't know how I can put it together, whether it's movies or it's being in a world where you can read books and go to movies and dream.

Also being the youngest child in the family and getting all hand-me-downs and sort of saying, 'Wait a minute, I want my own clothes.'

So when your parents are not able to afford the kind of clothes (I wanted) as a kid growing up, I had to work myself and earn my way and buy my own things. I just wanted to look like one of the guys and have the girls look at me.

What does this award from the Smithsonian mean to you?
It's probably the greatest honour one could have. The honour is mine to give to them because I'm part of this country.

What do you consider your career highlights?
I started with neckties, which are a very small thing and people aren't even wearing them today. Neckties helped start my career. When a man wore a tie, it had to make a statement.

I think every time I created a new brand, from men's to women's to children to home, they were interesting elements.

My clothes are not about fashion. They're about living. They're about how you live and how you want to live. And they're not about in-and-out fashion that's trendy or the hot news of the day. I think most people want stability. They want to feel that if they go out and buy something, they want good quality, good value for their money. They don't want to spend it frivolously and find that it's out of style.

How do you define your philosophy of fashion?
I can say that I'm about style, not fashion. I'm about timeless style, about quality, and that doesn't mean it has to be boring.

That means it's something that continues on because I don't throw out my clothes. The suit that I'm wearing is an old suit. I didn't just make this suit. I like the familiarity in a way because it's mine ... People say, 'I've worn your clothes for years and my child loves your clothes, my little girl loves your clothes.' I've been very connected to the people out there that buy my things and who appreciate it.

And sometimes they stop and say it, so that's very nice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I started with neckties, which are a very small thing and people aren't even wearing them today. Neckties helped start my career."
Ralph Lauren

You may have a dozen little black dresses but do you have enough little white dresses? Go online to Trends Report to see how some of your favourite celebs are styling the 'LWD' on the red carpet, and brighten up your wardrobe this summer.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo via Getty Images

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Sarah

Age: 27

Occupation: Graphic Designer & Yoga Instructor

What she's wearing:
Hat from Frock, jean dress from Mendocino, Grey dress from Local Designer Sara Duke 'I made this for you,' necklace from Purr Clothing in Calgary, sandals from Call it Spring and Bookhou purse.

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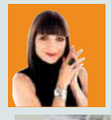

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PLUS HOMES

Diamonds are a sole's best friend

If the shoe fits.
Fashionistas start saving! World's most expensive pair of kicks ring in at $337,000

Would you take out a mortgage to buy these shoes? METRO

Diamond stilettos give a new meaning to the term "well-heeled."

You could walk off with heels worthy of Cinderella ... if you've got $337,000 to spare.

The Borgezie Princess Constellation stilettos — crafted in either platinum or 18-carat gold, and encrusted with 1,290 diamonds — are the world's most expensive shoes.

Designer Christopher Shellis, who's been working on the stilettos for seven years, tells Metro why the footwear that requires a mortgage is a "bargain."

The shoes are the price of a sports car or an apartment, so who are you expecting to splash the cash?
Actually, I've already had an enquiry: I've been approached by some people, who won't disclose their names, asking whether I could create 100 pairs of stilettos like this one. It's for a royal engagement.

That's ridiculous!
(It) sounds like a lot of money but people are spending hundreds of thousands on diamond-encrusted iPhone accessories or buying $1,000,000-plus cars. It's a bargain, mate!

Do you see them as an investment piece?
Yeah, I think the stilettos are like the Damien Hirst diamond-encrusted skull. Actually they're better because they've got a practical value as well as a display value.

Does a bodyguard come with the purchase price?
The people who buy these will bring their own bodyguard.
METRO

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Pursuing A Career – Why College? Ashley Evans Time: 11:45 to 12:15
How to Start a Business Rafi Varlonian & Josie Page Time: 1:45 to 2:15
Networking Navigating Post-Secondary Education: The Top 10 Questions You Should Ask Johanne Hayes Time: 3:30 to 4:00
IELTS – Tips for your next step. Dave Hamilton Time: 12:15 to 12:45
Resumes and Interviewing Strategies Ozzie Saunds Time: 2:15 to 2:45
Steps to Achieving your CPA designation Lori Bolton Time: 4:00 to 4:30
Winning ways – the formula for your job search success Sujay Vardhmane Time: 12:45 to 1:45
Positioning yourself effectively for a job in the Canadian finance and banking industry Sathsan Sriskrishnan Time: 4:30 to 5:00
Networking How To Build Relationships That Count Colleen Clarke Time: 3:00 to 3:30

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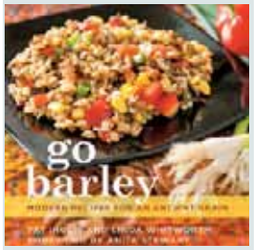
Play dress-up with your barley burger

Cookbook of the Week

Modern cooking with ancient grain



Go Barley by Pat Inglis and Linda Whitworth shows readers how to transform their favourite dishes into nutritional powerhouses with the addition of the ancient grain. High in fibre, barley has been proven to lower cholesterol and promotes digestive health. Among the recipes in the book are: Barley Minestrone, Barley Tabbouleh, Barley Banana Bread, and more. **METRO**

Backyard bites. This vegetarian burger is made with an ancient grain that will not only fill you up, but is good for you, too!

"Fire up the grill!" write Pat Inglis and Linda Whitworth in their book Go Barley.

"These vegetarian barley burgers are simple and easy to make. Serve in buns and top with salsa or wasabi stirred into mayonnaise, as well as lettuce, sliced tomatoes, and onions.

"You can also add a slice of cheese while browning the second side."

Ingredients

- 1 cup (250 ml) pearl barley
- 3 cups (750 ml) water
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) canola oil, divided
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 small carrot, finely chopped
- 1/2 lb (250 g) mushrooms, chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped parsley
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) pepper
- 2 cups (500 ml) fresh bread crumbs, divided

1. In a medium saucepan over high heat, combine barley and water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover pan; simmer for 45 to 50 minutes or until barley is tender. If necessary, drain any excess water. Spread in a shallow dish to cool.

2. In skillet over medium-high, heat half of the oil. Add onion, garlic, and carrot; stir and cook for 3 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add mushrooms and cook until any liquid evaporates. Add parsley, lemon rind, salt, and pepper. Combine mixture with barley. Stir in 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the bread crumbs. Place in a food processor and process until mixture holds together but you can still see some of the barley.

This recipe serves six. THE ALBERTA BARLEY COMMISSION (GOBARLEY.COM)

3. On a plastic-wrap-lined tray or baking sheet, spoon mixture into 6 portions; shape into patties and coat with remaining bread crumbs.

4. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the remaining oil and cook burgers 5 minutes per side or until browned and crisp. Alternately, heat the barbecue to medium-high and generously spray the grill with oil. Barbecue for 5 minutes per side. **EXCERPTED FROM GO BARLEY BY PAT INGLIS AND LINDA WHITWORTH (TOUCHWOOD, 2014). YOU CAN FIND THIS RECIPE AND MORE AT GOBARLEY.COM.**

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Legal Matters

Lawyer pays but won't play

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

I sold my house and I worked with a lawyer who managed the payout of my mortgage. She paid me the residue of what was left over after the mortgage was paid, the realtor's commission was deducted and legal fees were applied. I was happy with the service, but I recently received a voice mail from my lawyer saying that she had to pay a final instalment on my mortgage and would I reimburse her? I paid her good money for her services and now she is demanding extra fees. What should I do?

Your question is a good one and hopefully with a bit of explanation, you will understand her position.

Typically on closing, your lawyer would give an undertaking to the purchaser's lawyer to pay out the mortgage and make sure this instrument is discharged from title.

If your final payment to your mortgage company coincided with your closing, you may have owed your bank an extra payment. The financial institution would have come back to your lawyer and indicated that the last payment on the mortgage had not been honoured.

In this situation, your solicitor would have no choice but to pay your final mortgage installment and to request that you reimburse her for paying your bill. If she refused to pay this amount, the mortgage would not be discharged and she would be in trouble with the Law Society for not performing an undertaking to another lawyer. If you refuse to reimburse your lawyer, in all fairness, your mortgage payment probably exceeded the fees that your lawyer was charging as a fee. In the end, what's fair about that?

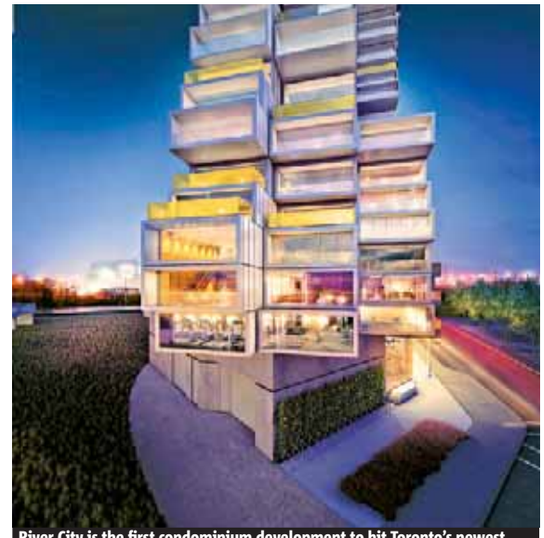
Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

Breathing new life into the West Don Lands

Waterfront Toronto. Canary District condos are well ahead of schedule, while River City enters third phase

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

In the West Don Lands: "Things are starting to take shape and look like an actual neighbourhood," says Waterfront Toronto VP of development Meg Davis. CONTRIBUTED



River City is the first condominium development to hit Toronto's newest neighbourhood. CONTRIBUTED

The countdown is on. Preparations are rapidly underway in the West Don Lands area as Toronto prepares to host the 2015 Pan American/Parapan American Games. With the opening ceremonies next July just a year away, Waterfront Toronto VP of development Meg Davis tells Metro that everything is on track.

"They're quite on budget and in fact all the cranes are down. They're topped off and they're doing finishing on the inside. They're definitely ahead of schedule. They will be absolutely ready for the Games," Davis says. Waterfront Toronto set the stage for the West Don Lands, and was responsible for engaging developers with the public lands.

"I'm pretty excited because they're now getting into doing some of the finishing stuff on the public realm which Waterfront Toronto designed, so Front Street, Bayview and Mill Street," says Davis. "Things are starting to take shape and look like an actual neighbourhood. When you're out there, you'll see trees are planted, it's getting there for sure."

Dundee Kilmer Developments Limited is the company responsible for the construction of a large portion of the Athletes' Village and surrounding infrastructure.

Their Canary District condominium residences will serve as accommodations for the athletes during the games, after which they will be turned over to their respective owners.

Jason Lester, president of Dundee Kilmer, says that they're well ahead of schedule. "We're almost completely enclosed now, almost all the windows are in, almost all the brick veneer is in and the panels are in on the outside. Our focus is really turning to finishing off the inside of the buildings, the drywall, the bathrooms and things like that."

Developer Urban Capital just launched the third phase of their landmark project along the Don River. David Wex is a partner at the company and the visionary behind the River City condominium development, the first in Toronto's newest neighbourhood.

"I think every building here in River City is a bit different design-wise because we work with Saucier + Perrotte out of Montreal and they are kind of known for their out-there architecture," says Wex.

"So that in and of itself was more of a different kind of architecture in the city than what we're used to. And then phase three is just taking it up a level."

Urban Capital brought on designer Graham Hill, internationally celebrated for his groundbreaking ideologies of urban space, to design the interiors of 20 exclusive units.

One of the simplest ways to summer-ize your space is by adding white and blue to your existing decor. Nautical accessories create a crisp look during hot weather months and look great with almost any colour scheme. Ships ahoy!

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Hello, sailor!

Bold as brass

Trendsetting brass is back and looks ship-regal when paired with bright white and navy blue. Hang from tree branches or use to create a nautical table centrepiece. Outdoor brass candle lanterns from $129, Homesense.ca

Pillow talk

A vintage nautical-inspired print for dreaming sailors. Sea Anchor Pillowcase, $20, Simons.ca

Drop anchor

Welcome your sailor home by anchoring the front door with a hearty, foot-swiping mat. Anchor Floor Mat, $29, WestElm.com

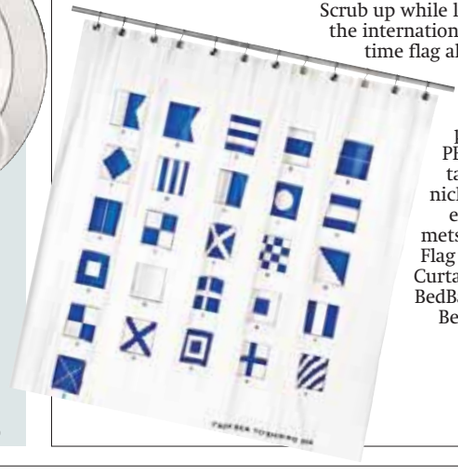
In the navy

Bright white porcelain banded with navy creates a classic summer table setting. Roulette Blue Band Dinnerware, 16 pieces, $175. CrateAndBarrel.com

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The A, B of seas

Scrub up while learning the international maritime flag alphabet. Heavy-gauge 100 per cent PEVA curtain with nickel-plated grommets. Signal Flag Shower Curtain, $33, BedBathAndBeyond.ca



Studio space. Responsive furniture for micro living

Connected home devices are still at an immature stage, according to a recent report. LOLOSTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Studio living is becoming increasingly common in urban areas, but how do you make 200 feet feel three times the size?

That was the question set by the MIT Media Lab when designing CityHome, a conceptual furniture unit that maximizes space and can be controlled with simple hand gestures.

Using built-in sensors, the unit can roll out a bed, a desk, a dining table and chairs for six people, and an extendable kitchen countertop. The entire unit can also be moved to alter the space on either side of it.

Led by the Changing Places Research Group, the team has also integrated lighting systems controlled by apps into the piece, with customizable colour themes. Voice-recognition control technology has also been incorporated into the lighting design.

Although it remains primarily a research project for the moment, rumour has it that designer Kent Larson is looking into making it a viable commercial product, so watch this (deceptively adaptable) space. AFP

Home accessories

Could this be the robotic furniture of the future?

Modular furniture made with robotic components that can reshape itself according to users' desires could be a major home accessory of the future. Scientists at Switzerland's Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) have come up with Roombots, an adaptive mechanical furniture concept.

The pieces can move and change functionality endlessly. For example, stools that move around could meet other stools and form a bench, which could then become a table.

The modules change shape and move by rotating against one another, and gripping together or to flat surfaces via connectors.

"We hope that the Roombots module will be used for many applications, but one of the main ones we have in mind is assistive technology," says Auke Ljspeert of the school's Biorobotics Laboratory. AFP

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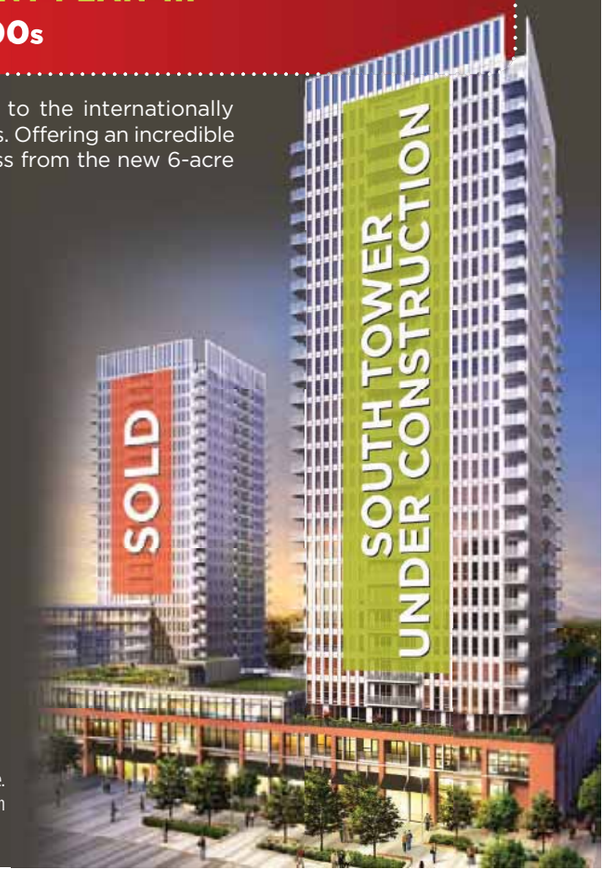

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Luxe townhomes boast terraces

Dovercourt 455 in Toronto's west end. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Dovercourt 455.
- **Builder.** Curated Properties.
- **Location.** 455 Dovercourt Rd.
- **Website.** dovercourt455.com.
- **Pricing.** From $649,900 to $899,900.
- **Occupancy.** November 2015
- **Building.** 12 two-storey suites with private rooftop terraces.
- **Suites.** Two bedroom and three bedroom.
- **Sizes.** From 1,050 to 1,500 sq. ft.
- **Status.** Open to the public by appointment.

The project overview

Twelve intimate townhomes at College and Dovercourt in Toronto's west end. Dovercourt 455 is an example of adaptive reuse in infill build, each a separate building block, balanced boldly atop an extant office building.

Location and transit

Well situated between Toronto's Little Italy and Dufferin Grove. Residences are located close to the College streetcar line. A quick drive to the Gardiner Expressway and Exhibition GO rail station. You can be in the downtown core in minutes.

In the neighbourhood

An exciting neighbourhood with lots of cafés, grocery stores and fashionable social venues. Some of Toronto's most popular new restaurants, including Bestellen and Bar Isabel. Close to Dufferin Mall and Dufferin Grove Park.

Building amenities

Each townhome has a private rooftop terrace with city views and a patio off the living space. Enclosed outdoor bike storage. Master bath includes a glass-enclosed wet room with tub. Twelve covered stacker and uncovered surface parking spots.

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Employment space

Jobs create growth

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

I often write about our industry building homes for up to 100,000 people that come to the GTA every year. What sometimes gets lost is that these new residents also bring 50,000 new jobs to our region.

Our industry is tasked with building office, retail and industrial developments to accommodate these new jobs. BILD members have embraced the challenge, which is evident by the five million square feet of employment space currently under construction in downtown Toronto alone.

With more people moving back to the downtown core, it is important that we build a sufficient amount of new places of employment. This is in line with the provincial Growth Plan's objective to make sure that GTA residents live closer to where they work.

While our industry is determined to build complete, quality communities that people can afford, it is also focused on creating an environment that allows businesses to locate where they can compete effectively.

Our industry plays a significant part when it comes to the economic growth of the GTA, and when you combine our members' residential and commercial construction efforts, you're looking at the creation of more than 200,000 jobs every year for new and existing GTA residents.

Quality jobs are a key contributor to the high quality of life and continued prosperity of the GTA. Introducing a new home or business development is a big job that requires a diverse mix of professionals all working together. BILD is working together with our partners in government to ensure that our industry continues implementing the vision for a greater GTA.

What's hot on the condo market

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1. Downtown

Grand Opening: The Harlowe downtown condominiums. Head over to 618 Richmond St. W., at Bathurst. June 24 at 6 p.m. sharp.

CONTACT: 416-363-1771, THEHARLOWE.COM

2. Scarborough

Community Barbecue: Harmony Village residential community. Visit the sales centre at 3260 Sheppard Ave. E., on June 22 from 1 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-493-0123, HARMONYVILLAGE.CA

3. Scarborough

Food Festival: ME condos international food fest. Head on over to 1151 Markham Rd. in Scarborough for food, fun and entertainment. June 21 from 12 to 3 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-430-0003, MELIVING.CA

4. King West

Open House: Two-storey penthouse loft on King West. Two bedroom, two bathroom. Check it out at 954 King St. W., June 21 to 22 from 4 to 7 p.m.

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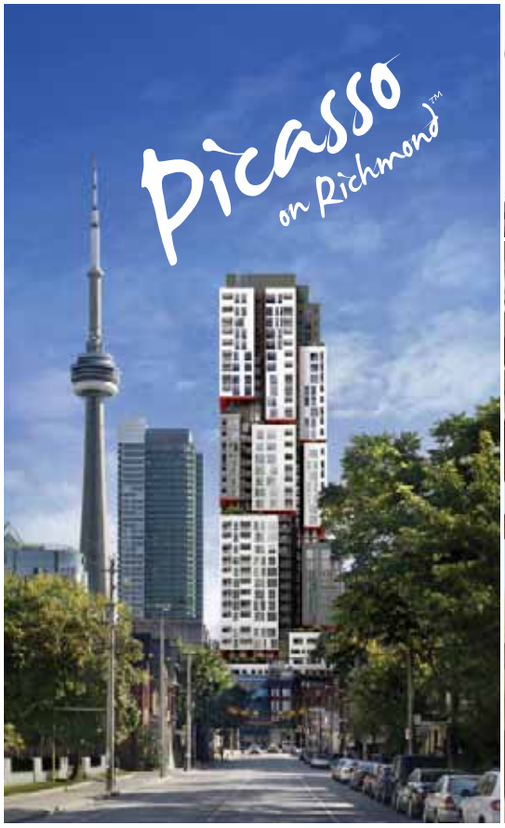

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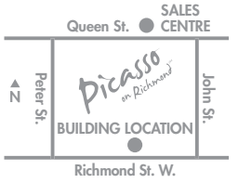

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Turning no man's into a curbside

On the boulevard.
Awkward parcels of land lining the street benefit from makeover

Making a yard and a community more beautiful begins at the curb. But that narrow space between sidewalk and street — sometimes called a boulevard, median, hellstrip, parkway, verge or tree belt — is a gardening challenge.

For starters, it's probably owned by the municipality but falls to the homeowner to maintain. So the first step in caring for it is to sort out what local rules allow.

"You need to go to the city's website if there are any questions about who owns what," said Evelyn Hadden, author of the new book Hellstrip Gardening (Timber Press). "The zoning laws should be posted online."

"Some cities have regulations where there can only be lawns there. Some say there can't be vegetables, but allow some kind of lawn alternative," she said. "Some communities change their rules when people start growing gardens and the community gets behind them."

Curb appeal can increase property values for the whole neighbourhood, Hadden said. "Curbside gardeners are pretty generous that way. They're working for the benefit of everybody."

Even seedy-looking parcels can become natural welcome mats when integrated with front yards. Curbside spaces are often heavily trafficked, however, making them tough to cultivate. The ground is hard-packed, and plants can be crushed. Rocks might add character to the landscape but will dent car doors if placed too near the curb. Tall, dense foliage can be a traffic hazard, preventing passing motorists from seeing pets and children.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How to create a roadside attraction

Here are some tips for creating a well-tended "hellstrip:"

- **Talk with neighbours before getting started.** "The tension will come when somebody complains," Hadden said.
- **Be aware of sight lines, especially at intersections.** Drivers may have trouble turning safely if something tall is in the way.
- **Go with perennials rather than annuals, said Fred Rozumalski, a landscape architect with Barr Engineering Co.** in Minneapolis, Minn. "Then the soil is only worked once and it's more secure," he said. "Dirt won't run into the street, clogging gutters and storm sewers."
- **Avoid growing vegetables at roadside sites because of pollution, Rozumalski said.** "They collect elevated levels of road salt, lead from gasoline and copper from brake linings. I certainly wouldn't want to eat any food that came off a boulevard."
- **Tree planting is the city's job, he said.** "I've seen people make bad choices, planting trees like sugar maples that are difficult to maintain and push up sidewalks. Shrubs should be kept low, no more than 18 inches in height."
- **Be cautious about displaying yard art, Rozumalski said.** "You don't want to distract drivers. It's probably better if you put those kinds of things deeper into the yard."
- **Boulevards typically are too narrow to be turned into full-blown rain gardens, but they'll be more environmentally friendly if the soil level is kept at least two inches below the curb, he said.** "Then the water will collect instead of running off."

land of a 'hellstrip' Garden of Eden

A pedestrian-friendly street makeover in Langley, Wash., includes a number of hellstrip gardens: flowers, trees and shrubs planted between sidewalk and street. Frequent watering is often difficult at these curbside plots. Langley gardeners are using slow-release water bags at the base of the newly planted trees until their roots can become established. The bags only need to be refilled once or twice a week. DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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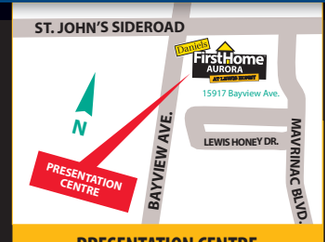

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Look out, old-school laminate and tile — and even current fave countertop materials, granite and quartz. Along with wood and recycled glass, concrete is growing in popularity. Skilled DIY-types can make simpler versions of custom-made alternatives. Here's what's happening in countertops now

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Counter culture

Concrete is being used to create artisanal countertops. ALL PHOTOS MATTHEW MILLMAN/CHENG CONCRETE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The concrete countertops in Eleanor Zuckerman's San Francisco kitchen are hand-crafted works of art.

Custom-designed by Fu-Tun Cheng of the Berkeley, Calif.-based Cheng Concrete, they feature colours like brick, flowing lines and pictures of nautilus shells.

"With concrete there is a lot of room for creativity, to say nothing of colour," says Zuckerman, a retired psychologist. "It gives you flexibility."

Homeowners looking to spice up their kitchens can install a variety of countertops that go beyond the traditional laminate and tile. Today's options include concrete and butcher-block-style wood, and a range of custom-designed colours and shapes. IceStone countertops use recycled glass from broken bottles.

"So many different materials are used in countertops these days," says Tony Izzo, Curtis Lumber's corporate kitchen and bath manager in Albany, N.Y. Until about 25 years ago, he says, roughly 90 per cent of countertops in U.S. homes were laminate, and the rest tile.

Then DuPont's Corian hit the market, followed by granite and quartz, which are current favourites, he says. Today, just half of countertops are laminate, Izzo says.

The burgeoning interest in alternative countertops is the natural extension of that trend. And they are becoming more affordable.

"Slowly, over the years, the market has really grown," says Mike Heidebrink, president of Cheng Concrete. When the company opened in 2002, it catered mostly to well-heeled dot-commers willing to spend more to bring an artisan's touch to their kitchens.

Today, Heidebrink says, Cheng also serves a growing number of skilled do-it-yourselfers who want to shape, mould and install countertops themselves. They can choose the colour and lines of their countertops, he says. Once installed and sealed, he says, concrete countertops are as durable as limestone and marble.

"They can have that for $10 a square foot," he says.

Nils Wessell in Brooklyn, New York, says the do-it-yourself movement is also fuelling his businesses, in a different way.

"This DIY interest in cooking leads to people wanting a suitable surface to chop up meat on," says Wessell. His company, Brooklyn Butcher Blocks, makes wooden countertops with enough thickness and durability to be used as cutting boards. Clients include barbeque restaurants as well as home cooks.

While Wessell says his handmade countertops are more expensive than factory-made ones, he can make "a sizeable countertop for about a grand," he says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Of course, no countertop is perfect

- **Concrete can stain, so it must be sealed properly.**
- **Wooden countertops take a beating from knives, although Wessell says they can be easily maintained with semi-regular sanding.**
- **Soapstone, popular for its natural look, has its quirks as well, Izzo says: It weathers over time.** "Consumers generally have to accept that idea and know that they want a living finish like that," he says.
- **Granite countertops can release trace amounts of the radioactive gas radon.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says most granite countertops are safe, adding little to a house's radon level. It depends on the rock that is used, the agency says, recommending that homeowners concerned about radon get their countertops tested.

40 years of turning Kohler factory into art studio

Sharing ideas. Arts/Industry program founded in 1974 encourages factory workers and artists to collaborate on design

The Kohler sink in your bathroom may be more of a work of art than you realize.

The company known for kitchen and bathroom fixtures has opened its factory floor to artists for the past 40 years, allowing them to share ideas and techniques with factory workers so that both can be inspired.

Three artists have created pieces produced by Kohler Co., and many more have gone on to design for other companies.

The program, celebrating its 40th anniversary, is notable for its longevity and impact on the arts world, said Larry Bush, a ceramics professor at the Rhode Island School of Design. Kohler is unique in letting artists work on the factory floor with employees and providing equipment to create work on a massive scale, he said.

"The sort of thing that people can do at the Kohler factory has inspired a lot of work beyond the Kohler factory," Bush said.

Ruth DeYoung Kohler — a printmaker, former teacher and granddaughter of Kohler Co. founder John Michael Kohler — created the Arts/Industry program at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center soon after taking over as director in 1972. Artists who visited Kohler during a clay exhibition were hungry for access to the factory's moulds and other resources, and eager to learn the techniques used by craftsmen working there, she said. There was little interaction between the worlds of fine art and manufacturing at the time.

Kohler convinced her brother, Kohler Co. Chairman and CEO Herb Kohler Jr., to let two artists work at the factory for a month.

"They created all these fanciful things with the plumbing products," she recalled. "So, for example, they took a urinal, turned it on its back, added some clay wheels and filled it full of clay teeth and called it the Tooth Fairy Wagon. And then they took two toilets and put them back to back ... and they turned it into a rocket ship."

The project so captivated Kohler workers that the artists were invited back for another month in late 1974. Since then, more than 400 artists have completed residencies lasting up to six months. A retrospective of their work is on display through Aug. 31 at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, about an hour north of Milwaukee.

Jan Axel, who completed two residencies at Kohler in 1979 and 1981, created a sink carved with undulating lines, and the company later produced it commercially. Axel went on to create a program that brought artists to Kohler to embellish plumbing fixtures for sale. Such collaboration was radical at the time.

"It was sort of 'not done' because people wanted to be considered artists. They didn't want to be designers," said Axel, of South Salem, N.Y., who went on to do product and landscape design.

Molly Hatch, a ceramics artist from Northampton, Mass., said her 2009 residency gave her a new career designing tableware for Anthropologie, and stationery and fabrics for other companies. Hatch said that learning to use liquid clay and moulds at Kohler allowed her to create pieces with a consistency she couldn't achieve by hand.

At the same time, she was struck by the amount of handcrafting done at Kohler, and she now creates products that combine mass production and a personal touch.

Personal touch

"Being exposed to the way things were made on the floor at the factory at Kohler, I realized there's so much more involved, and a person behind the object, and so much more pride taken in every object. It just changed my understanding of the process completely." Ceramic artist Molly Hatch

"Being exposed to the way things were made on the floor at the factory at Kohler, I realized there's so much more involved, and a person behind the object, and so much more pride taken in every object," Hatch said, adding, "It just changed my understanding of the process completely."

Kohler said the factory workers teaching the artists to use moulds and other equipment also have been changed by the experience.

"They understand that their skills are enormous," she said, "and their skills are valued by the artists and the company." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Artist Molly Hatch in 2009 with chinoiserie vases made during her residency at the Kohler Co. in Wisconsin. Hatch says the residency helped her launch a second career as a product designer. INDUSTRY ARTIST ARCHIVE/JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER ARTS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spain's soccer reign over

Defending champions eliminated from contention. Loss to Chile ensures no return trip to knockout stage

Group B

Chile	Spain
2	0

Defending champion Spain, the dominant global football power for the past six years, was eliminated from World Cup contention Wednesday with a 2-0 loss to Chile.

Spain's famed passing game failed against a high-tempo, tenacious Chile team, its era ending in the storied Maracana Stadium filled mostly with noisy Chilean supporters.

Eduardo Vargas tricked goalkeeper Iker Casillas into diving the wrong way, then shot into an unguarded goal in the 20th minute. Charles Aranguiz scored in the 43rd when the ball landed at his feet after Casillas punched out a free kick.

"I only ask fans for forgiveness, we did everything we could," said Casillas, who lifted the World Cup trophy four years ago.

Spain's second loss, after a 5-1 rout by the Netherlands, ended any hope of advancing. Chile and the Netherlands will both make it to the knockout stage out of Group B, regardless of who wins the game between them.

Spain won the European Championship in 2008 and 2012, in addition to the 2010 World Cup.

Perhaps the Euro 2012 final was the high point of the era: A 4-0 dismantling of Italy on a similarly balmy evening in Kyiv, Ukraine

Spain came to Brazil with a very similar — but older — team to the one that won those titles. They added Brazilian-born striker Diego Costa, but he failed to score a goal and was substituted in both matches.

"We have no excuses," said Spain coach Vicente del Bosque. "We were too slow, timid from the start today. It's a sad day for all of the players. Time to think about the future."

The stars who had made the system go are still on the team, but they've clearly lost some speed and their connections haven't been as sharp. Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez, who often delivered the key pass, didn't play Wednesday.

Spain became the third straight European defending World Cup champion to flop in the group stage. France in 2002 and Italy four years ago also failed to advance, or even win a match.

Spain will finish the tournament by playing Australia on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sergio Busquets of Spain reacts after a missed scoring chance against Chile on Wednesday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Double Dutch

Netherlands edges Australia for 2nd win of tournament

Memphis Depay scored a late clincher as Netherlands withstood Australia's unsettling challenge in a 3-2 comeback win Wednesday.

Arjen Robben and Robin Van Persie, who each scored twice in an earlier 5-1 win over Spain, added to their tallies before and after Australia's goals. Substitute Depay scored the winner in the 68th minute.

Spain's 2-0 loss to Chile later Wednesday, sent Chile and the Netherlands both to the knockout stage, regardless of who wins the game between them on Monday.

On the deciding goal, Depay drove a swerving, speculative shot toward the goal from 25 yards. Australian goalkeeper Maty Ryan didn't spot it early enough and the ball shot past his outstretched right hand.

Toronto-born midfielder Jonathan de Guzman made his second straight start for the Netherlands, playing 78 minutes before being substituted for Giorginio Wijnaldum.

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Too much to bare: Cameroon comes unglued vs. Croatia

World Cup. Bilic Boys brush off nude photo scandal to catch Cameroonians with their pants down on pitch

Ivan Perisic jumps on Mario Mandzukic after Mandzukic scored Croatia's fourth goal on Wednesday in Manaus, Brazil. GETTY IMAGES

Mario Mandzukic scored two goals Wednesday to keep Croatia in the mix at the World Cup with a 4-0 win over 10-man Cameroon, which will be going home after the group stage.

Mandzukic, who returned to the team after sitting out the opening loss to Brazil because of a suspension, headed in a corner from Danijel Pranjic in the 61st minute and then knocked in a rebound in the 73rd of the Group A game.

Ivan Perisic also scored a goal and created another for Ivica Olic.

Cameroon was reduced to 10 men after midfielder Alex Song was given a red card for elbowing Mandzukic in the back in the 40th minute.

Croatia stayed focused after paparazzi photos showing some players bathing naked were published by Croatian media over the weekend.

Cameroon can only play spoiler in its final match against Brazil Monday. If the 1990 World Cup quarter-finalists beat Brazil, the host country could still advance or be forced out of the tournament on goal difference. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Group A

Croatia	Cameroon
4	0

Croatia holds its future in its own hands. If the 1998 World Cup semifinalists beat Mexico on Monday, they will guarantee themselves a spot in the second round. The Mexicans will advance with a win or a draw.

Nigeria

Bomb blast kills 14 watching World Cup on TV

Survivors of a bomb blast at an illegal World Cup viewing site in northeast Nigeria that killed at least 14 people said Wednesday the force of the explosion blew off limbs and knocked people senseless.

Unrelated to the attack, police said security forces arrested nearly 500 people, including a "terror kingpin" in the southeast of the country.

At least 26 people were wounded in Tuesday night's blast as soccer fans were viewing the Brazil-Mexico match in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe state, police said.

"The bomb just threw me and I didn't even know where I was," Babagana Mohammed said. He recovered consciousness in hospital.

FIFA offered "sincerest condolences to the victims' families and friends."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays blowing it in Bronx

Toronto Blue Jays starter Mark Buehrle looks into the outfield after surrendering a two-run home run in the fourth inning against the Yankees' Brian McCann on Wednesday night in New York. The Jays lost 7-3. JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Everyone thinks you're a star so why are you being so negative about your prospects? Step outside yourself today and see how you look through other people's eyes.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There is no point cursing fate if what happens today is not to your liking. In the long-term everything will come good, so never doubt that no matter what happens, you will be stronger for it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You pride yourself on being rational but with Mercury, your ruler, moving retrograde not every thought you have will be based on reason. Don't be too stubborn. There are times when it's OK to change your mind.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
An offer will tempt you but can you be sure it is genuine? According to the planets you have reason to be suspicious, so take care when dealing with people who promise you the world for a small investment.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
People will be moody today, which in turn will annoy you. Before the situation spirals out of control remind yourself that in the greater scheme of things it's of little importance.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A relationship will come under pressure today and if you say the wrong thing it may even end. Tomorrow you will regret having been so outspoken but it needed to happen.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are at a crossroads as far as a creative project is concerned. Do you carry on with it or do give up and focus your energy in a new direction? Give it some serious thought.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Make sure you get your chores out of the way as quickly as possible over the next 24 hours. If you let what should have been done today wait until tomorrow you will fall behind and may never catch up.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It is vital that you deal with an outstanding feud immediately because if you allow it to linger it will hold you back and that could be disastrous.

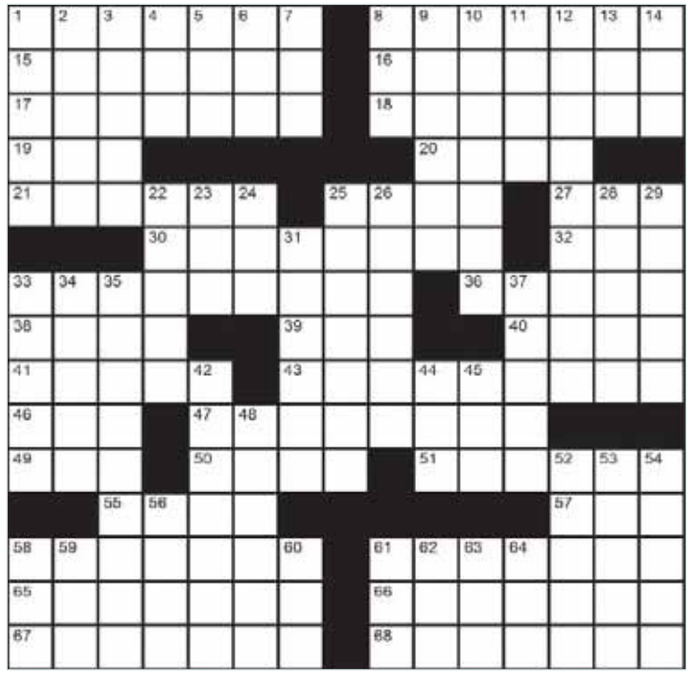
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you aren't in the mood to work today, don't push yourself. Even if you force yourself to do what is expected of you it's unlikely you'll do a good job of it, so wait until you are in a more positive frame of mind.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What are you waiting for? Something is holding you back from taking risks and that's a shame because the planets suggest that if you take a chance today it could pay off in a big way. Do you dare?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are worrying about things you have no way of changing. According to the planets what you fear the most is the one thing that is least likely to happen, so be brave and go on the attack. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

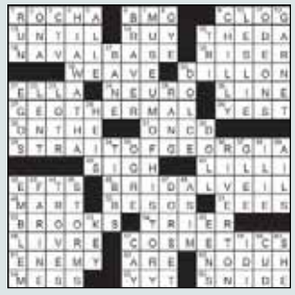
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Halifax pita specialties
8. Oscar Peterson tune about a Montreal locale: "Place __. __"
15. Seasoning sort
16. Sunglasses and spectacles
17. Lake Ontario archipelago-by-the-city, Toronto __
18. Stretches out
19. First word in Inferno by Dante
20. Long times
21. John Travolta movie
25. Prefix to 'dextrous'
27. Got the parcel, briefly
30. "Elvira: __ of the Dark" (1988)
32. Have a bug
33. Ron Sexsmith song about his St. Catharines, ON hometown: "__ Street"; or, Pen name J.K. Rowling uses for her new crime novel The Silkworm, Robert __
36. Nero's 1406
38. Actor Mr. Jannings
39. Hr. part
40. Geese: French
41. Juliet's beloved
43. "Chopped Canada" host Dean
46. Regret
47. Roof window
49. 12 mo. periods
50. Foundation
51. Sisters: French
55. Norse thunder god
57. Egg mass
58. Taken aback
61. Kirkland Lake, ON: __ & South Mine Complex
65. Ms. Judd
66. Strange
67. Most profound
68. Claude __ (French composer, b.1862 - d.1918)

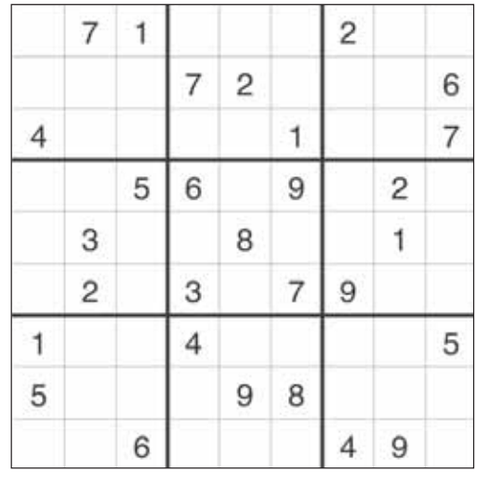
Down
1. Faring
2. Canadian figure skating great Brian
3. Portia's "Ally McBeal" character
4. Turkish title [var. sp.]
5. Sir McKellen
6. Boxing bout div.
7. Rihanna's "_._._. (Rescue Me)"
8. Ms. Hinton's
9. Easygoing people, e.g.: 2 wds.
10. Valour
11. Mr. McGregor
12. '90s broadcasting-themed sitcom starring Canadian comedians Dave Foley and Phil Hartman
13. Early-'60s singer Mr. Donner
14. American tax org.
22. Mosey along
23. Knight's title
24. Conductor, __-Pekka Salonen
25. The = Definite __
26. Henna-on-hands artwork
28. Spotted cat-like mammal
29. "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the _-__"
31. Mr. Horton's donut chain, endearingly
33. Canadian comedian Mr. Dee
34. Love: French
35. Sedimentary rock kind
37. Le __ de Monte-Cristo
42. Bob Einstein's alter ego, Super Dave ___
44. For instances, for short
45. Greek alphabet's 17th letter
48. Actress Ms. Allen's
52. Bear, fancy-style
53. Civil Rights activist Ms. Parks, and namesakes
54. Mattress manufacturer
56. Basketball net
58. E-Mail subj. line directive
59. Caustic
60. Info, briefly
61. Spa mask ingredient
62 'Meth' suffix
63. Lion's offspring
64. Pac-12 sch.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	3	9	4	2	1	6	8
6	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	4
8	9	4	1	3	6	2	7	5
5	4	1	3	6	8	9	2	7
2	6	9	7	1	5	4	8	3
3	7	8	4	2	9	5	1	6
4	8	6	2	9	3	7	5	1
9	3	7	5	8	1	6	4	2
1	2	5	6	7	4	8	3	9

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